School
Rumble
スクールランブル
Vol.
15
Shonen
Magazine
Comics
小林尽
Jin Kobayashi

School Rumble 15

Jin Kobayashi

Yoko & Itoko

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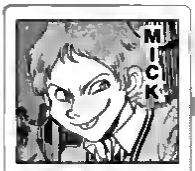
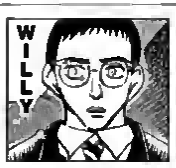
Itoko

Anglo/Japanese Battle: Match-up Chart

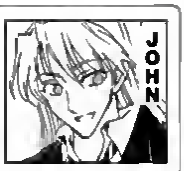


Short of stature is he a match-up for Yoshidayama? Actually Imadori couldn't tell him and Yoshidayama apart.

Loves Japanese stand up comedy is disappointed in those Kyoto Japs who have forgotten how to laugh



The "boss's" right-hand man? He has control over Samuel and Mick.



A man whose stunning looks have stolen the hearts of the Yagami High girls.

Victory

Victory

Dasu

The Battle of Gojô Daibashi

Never even fought

Defeat

Representing the swimsuit wrestling club If you think of Gojô you have to think of Ushiwakamaru and Benkei right? Dasu

?

Victory

Was Hanai taken out by Samuel?!

?

Defeat

The Anglo/Japanese Glasses Match-up!

Victory

Victory was decided when Mai-chan said the words, "This time we have a guy in glasses we can really count on!!"

Defeat

He was in England but for some reason he's now in Kyoto...and unconscious

The Anglo/Japanese Cute Guy Match-up!

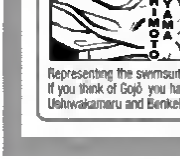
Victory

I don't acknowledge that anybody is better-looking than I am!!

Crushing Defeat

He may have lost the fight, but his stick with Ichi-san sure has risen

Glasses you



Max has his confession of love It's about time to enter the priesthood

Anglo/Japanese Brawlers Match-up!

Victory

Defeat

Of all places right in front of Tenma-chan!!

BOSS?

A man who knew Sawachika when she was in England He calls her "Half-Japanese"

I-Imadori-san you came! A-And I was so happy to see you!!

Why do I always have these useless blond jerks hanging around me?

Is he fighting Max for my sake?

It seems she was in the same junior high school as the "boss."

There's something in these two's past

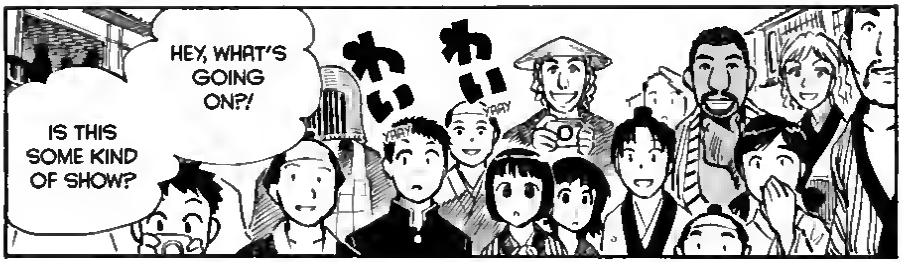
Shall we head off to Gion, Karen?

Staying Home for the Present

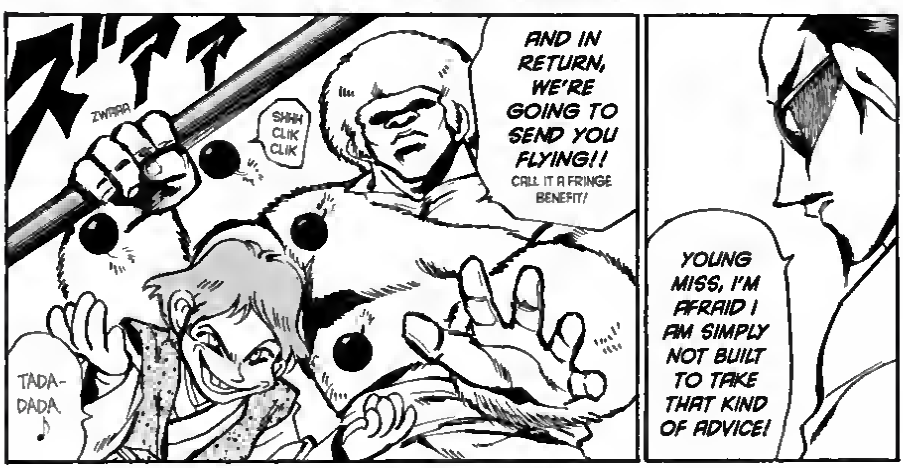
Tsukamoto Yakumo

Just in Case, Here is the *School Rumble* Story Thus Far.

Tsukamoto Tenma (main character) is a second-year student in high school, and like many other girls her age, she is in love. The object of her affection is her classmate, Karasuma Ôji. Just as the school year started in April, it became known that he was destined to transfer out of the school at the end of the school year!! Even though Tenma loves him so much! Even though she really wants to tell him how she feels!! But she still hasn't been able to tell him. And as the time passes, the season of parting is swiftly approaching...and that's the story. Yeah, we know it has nothing whatsoever to do with the chart above.



YOU DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB BREAKING UP OUR PARTY HERE!!
AFTER WE WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO SET THAT PALANQUIN FREE TO ROAM WHERE IT LIKES!
YO, MR. SAMURAI TOPKNOT!!
わい
YARY


ズアア
ZWAAA
SHHH CLIK CLIK
AND IN RETURN, WE'RE GOING TO SEND YOU FLYING!!
CALL IT A FRINGE BENEFIT!
TADA-DADA ♪
YOUNG MISS, I'M AFRAID I AM SIMPLY NOT BUILT TO TAKE THAT KIND OF ADVICE!

#179 THE LAST SAMURAI

BWOOO
TH-THIS PIKE WILL KN-KNOCK YOU DEAD!!
R-REALLY, IT'S M-MY ACT THAT'S KNOCKING THEM DEAD!!
Muu!
GYAKIIN
Y-YOU PUT A STOP TO IT!!!
OHH!!

Samuel and Mick: Japanophiles...in a Way.

WH-WHAT'S THAT?
GRCH
A HUMAN NORMALLY USES ONLY ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF HIS STRENGTH.
KREEEK
BUT!!
...FIND THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO CALL ON...
THOSE GUYS WHO HAVE A SPECIAL GIRL TO LOVE...
...THE REMAINING 70 PERCENT OF THEIR POWER!!!

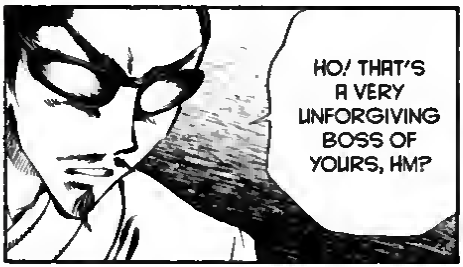
Harima Kenji Samurai: Kind of Brainy.

Main Pen Lines: A Little Fatter Than Normal.

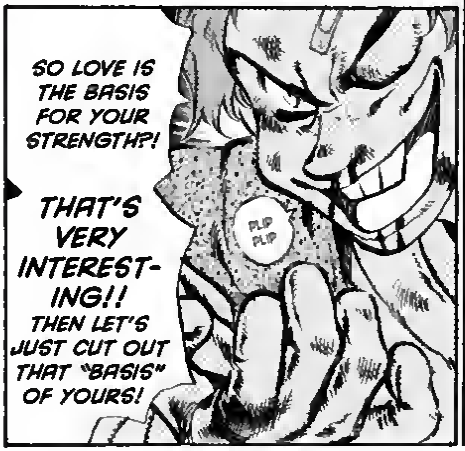
ZUWHOOM
<GYAAHEEE!!>

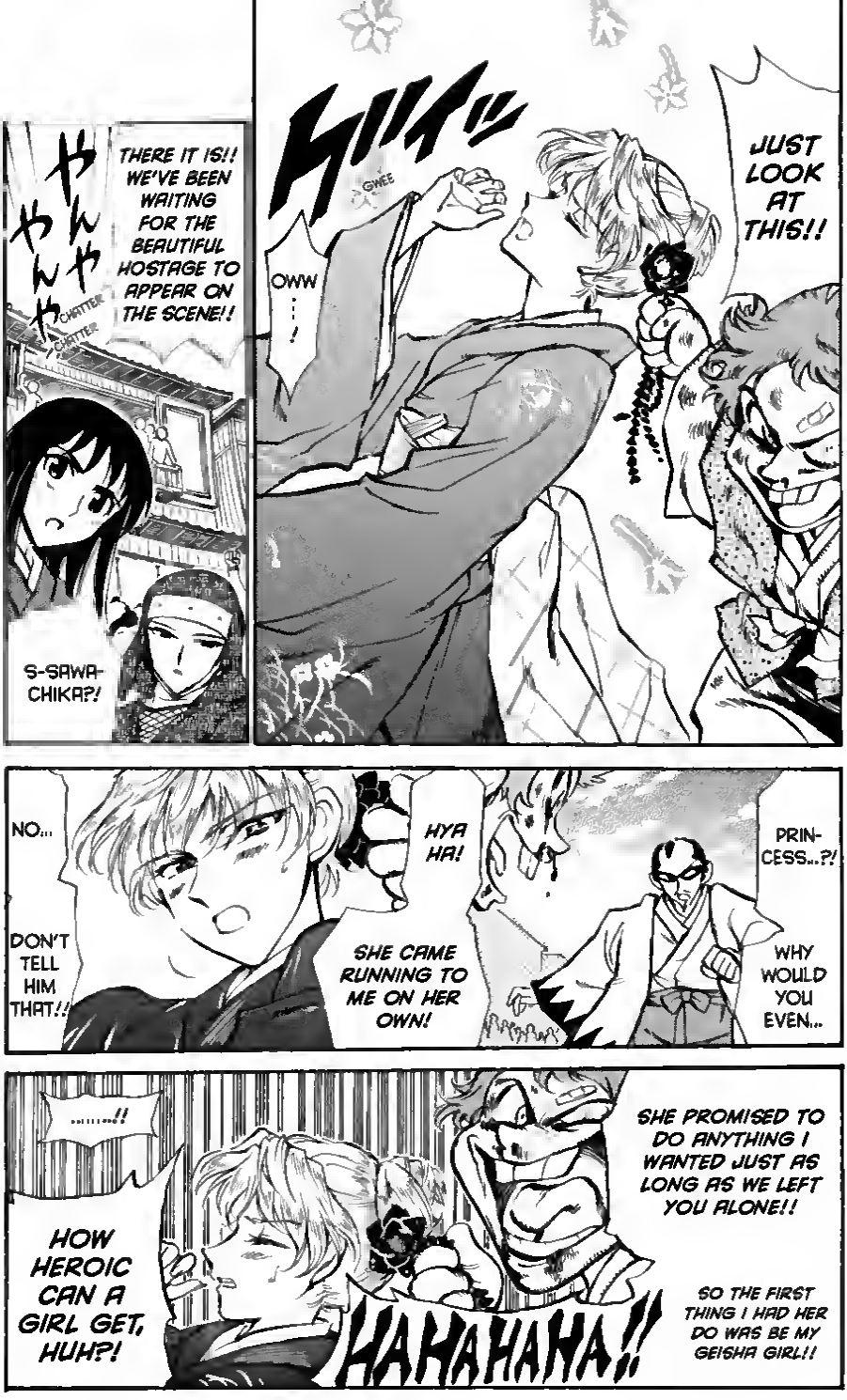
WAID... YOU...!!

I LOVED THE BAD OVERLORD'S MINIONS/ THAT SHORT ONE REALLY PLAYED THE PART!!
TH-THIS ATTRACTION IS GREAT!!


HO! THAT'S A VERY UNFORGIVING BOSS OF YOURS, HM?

...D-DA BOSS IS NGONNA GILL ME!!
I-IF I NGO BACK ABDER LOOZIG DO YOU...
WHOOA!! THAT GUY JUST DOESN'T QUIT, HUH?!
BUT HIS PERFORMANCE IS INCREDIBLY REALISTIC//


SO LOVE IS THE BASIS FOR YOUR STRENGTH?!
THAT'S VERY INTEREST-ING!!
THEN LET'S JUST CUT OUT THAT "BASIS" OF YOURS!
FLIP FLIP


JUST LOOK AT THIS!!
GWEE
OWW...!
THERE IT IS!! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE BEAUTIFUL HOSTAGE TO APPEAR ON THE SCENE!!
CHATTER CHATTER
S-SAWA-CHIKA?!
PRIN-CESS...?!
HYA HA!
NO...
DON'T TELL HIM THAT!!
SHE CAME RUNNING TO ME ON HER OWN!
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN...
SHE PROMISED TO DO ANYTHING I WANTED JUST AS LONG AS WE LEFT YOU ALONE!!
.....!!
HOW HEROIC CAN A GIRL GET, HUH?!
HAHAHAHA!!
SO THE FIRST THING I HAD HER DO WAS BE MY GEISHA GIRL!!

SHE'S THE BOSS'S OWN FIANCÉE!!
BY THE WAY, JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION...
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS GIRL IS...?
EH...?!
WHA...?!
THAT EVIL-LOOKING GUY AND ERI-CHAN?!
FIANCÉE...?!!
BUT YOU CAN RELAX AS YOU HEAD TO HELL!!
...KNOWING THAT YOU WERE JUST PLAYING HER CLOWN!!
DIE, YOU LITTLE PISS MONKEY!!
WELL?!
DOES THAT SHOCK YOU?!
KEH HEH HEH! NOW YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL NEVER MARRY THE WOMAN YOU LOVE, HUH?!!

THE BOSS OF THE SEWER RATS!!
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME OUT, HUH?
OHH! AND THERE'S THE EVIL OVERLORD HIMSELF!!
O-OWW...
HA HA HA...
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE OUTCOME, BUT YOU STILL WANT TO CHALLENGE ME?!

Nothing to Do with Him? That's True.

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SCHOOL RUMBLE★UMA FILE

File001 Kûta

KÛTA EYES
IT SHOULD NAVE UNUSUALLY GOOO EYESIGHT COMPAREO TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM, BUT FOR SOME REASON ITS EYESIGHT SEEMS TO IMPROVE WHEN WEARING GLASSES. ITS EYES ARE CALMING ANO NEALING.

KÛTA MOUTH
MAIN DIET CONSISTS OF BAMBOO LEAVES ANO PET FOOO. WHEN IT FEELS THREATENED, IT LETS OUT A "KYUU" SOUNO THAT IS TRULY NEALING ANO CALMING.

KÛTA FOOT
ITS FEET ARE WIOE, ALLOWING FOR EASY ANO NATURAL BI-PEDAL MOVEMENT. ITS FRONT PAWS SEEM TOO BIG FOR ANY DEXTERITY, BUT KÛTA CAN DON GLASSES WITHOUT ASSISTANCE. THAT UNEX-PECTED AGILITY BRINGS A CALMING FEELING TO THOSE WATCNING.

KÛTA TAIL
THE FUR OF KÛTA'S TAIL IS MORE PLIABLE THAN THE TAILS OF OTHER GIANT ANIMALS. IT IS AS FLUFFY ANO SOFT AS THE NIGNEST-GRADE FURS. IT HAS NEALING EFFECTS.

▲ WAS LARGE IN ITS FIRST APPEARANCE, BUT

▲ IT GREW TO BE THIS LARGE!

▲ THE BEAST-GOD PROTECTOR OF YAGAAMI, KUTAPANDA.

CHARACTERISTICS

- HABITAT: YAGAMI ZOO • HEIGHT/WEIGHT 3.33 M/333KG
- FAVORITE ITEMS: BAMBOO, GLASSES • SOUNDS GENERATED: FUUU, KYUU
- SPECIAL TECHNIQUES: BIPEDAL MOTION, LOVELY LIGHT, LEFT UPPERCUT

○EXPLANATION

KÛTA IS THE GIANT LESSER PANOA THAT LIVES IN YAGAMI ZOO. ONE WOULD NOT KNOW TO LOOK AT IT, BUT IT WAS SICKLY AT THE TIME OF ITS BIRTH, ANO BECAUSE PEOPLE PRAYED FOR IT TO GROW AS BIG ANO STRONG AS THE SKY, IT WAS GIVEN THE NAME KÛTA, WITH THE KANJI FOR "KÛ" MEANING SKY. PERHAPS THE PRAYERS WERE ANSWEREO WITH MORE FORCE THAN NECESSARY, BECAUSE KÛTA BEGAN GROWING ANO GROWING. A NORMAL PANDA WILL HAVE A SIZE OF APPROXIMATELY 50–60CM (20–24 INCHES), BUT KÛTA GREW TO WELL OVER THREE METERS (OVER TEN FEET TALL).
AT FIRST, KÛTA WAS THE IDOL OF THE ZOO, LOVEO BY ALL ZOO ATTENOEES, BUT AS THE DAYS WENT ON, ITS POPULARITY OION'T LAST. ANO WHEN ITS POPULARITY WAS AT A LOW, IT MAY HAVE THOUGHT, "ISN'T BEING HUGE ENOUGH TO SATISFY PEOPLE?" OR PERHAPS IT THOUGHT, "I'LL GO ON A TRAINING JOURNEY." EITHER WAY, IT ESCAPEO FROM THE ZOO. AFTER MUCH WORRY, IT WAS FOUNO THE NEXT DAY SPORTING A NEW ITEM: A PAIR OF GLASSES, ANO WAS RETURNED TO ITS ENCLOSURE, ONCE AGAIN THE STAR OF THE ZOO.

THIS IS A LITTLE OFF THE TOPIC, BUT ON THE LEGENDARY PACIFIC ISLAND OF YAGAAMI THERE IS A STORY TOLD OF THE GREAT PROTECTOR GOO KUTAPANOA. ANO IN THE KYOTO-BASED LEGENO OF THE RUNAWAY PALANOUIN, THE MASTER OF THE MOUNTAIN, KUTAKABUTO, MAKES AN APPEARANCE. IT SEEMS THAT ANY CREATURE WITH "KUTA" IN ITS NAME IS OESTINED TO GROW TO A GREAT SIZE. WHETHER THIS IS TRUE OR NOT REMAINS A MYSTERY.

THESE ACTORS ARE PUTTING ON AN EXTREMELY REALISTIC SHOW!!
HEY, LOOK! SOMETHING BIG IS GOING TO HAPPEN!!

...WE KNOW THIS IS FOR KEEPS!
ALL OF THE OTHER PARK GUESTS THINK HE'S A PART OF THE SHOW, BUT...
YEAH...
HEY, ISN'T THAT SAMURAI HARIMA?
WHAT'S HE DOING IN THAT OUTFIT?

IT'S SOMETHING WE COULDN'T DO!
THAT'S SO LIKE HIM!
KLNCH
HE'S BEEN FIGHTING THEM SINCE NOON, HUH?!!

!!
COME ON, YOU PIECE OF TURD!!
HIS LEGS ARE SLOW. THIS GUY ISN'T USING FOOTWORK!
BUT HIS MOVEMENTS AREN'T BOXING! IT'S THE JAPANESE ART OF...!!

CHIN
GRN
GRN
GRN
GRN
HYUU
WHOO
DOOM

His Movements Are Basically a Circular Motion.

IS THIS ALL HE'S GOT?
GWOH-OOH !!
IS THIS THE END OF IT?
HYUU
GRRCH

GAHH...
HE USED THE VERY FORCE THAT THE GUY THREW AT HIM...
...AND RODE THE MOTION!!
AND IT REALLY HAD AN EFFECT!!
WAS THAT A FLYING KNEEL KICK?!
YOU FREAKIN'...
SKRRT
ZUUU
NGA-AAHH!!
GARR!!
GRUNCH
OHH!! HE'S GOT THE GUY'S ARM TWISTED!!
THIS IS NO AMATEUR BOUT!!

YOU HAVEN'T PREPARED WELL ENOUGH FOR YOUR SCHOOL TRIP.
GRRNN
DAMMIT!!
HAKAMA ARE KNOWN TO THROW OFF THE TIMING OF MARTIAL ARTS EXPERTS!
BUT SINCE I'M WEARING HAKAMA, YOU CAN'T SEE HOW MY LEGS ARE MOVING.
YOUR MISTAKE IS CONCENTRATING ON KARATE, WHERE THE CLOTHES ALLOW YOU TO SEE EVERY MOVE YOUR OPPONENT MAKES.
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU EXACTLY HOW HE FELT RIGHT NOW.
HE'S A MARTIAL ARTIST AND MORE LIMBER THAN I AM, SO IT MUST'VE TAKEN A LOT TO BEAT HIM!
YOU'RE THE GUYS WHO DID GLASSES IN, HUH?
HE'S GOING TO WIN!!
H—
KA
A
AAH
H!!
HUH..?
KRAKK

Shiki Soku Ze Kū!! (That Which Is Form Is Emptiness!!).

It's Pride and Stubbornness That Makes One's Fists Clench...Charge!!

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I'M GONNA BEAT YOU UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD!!!

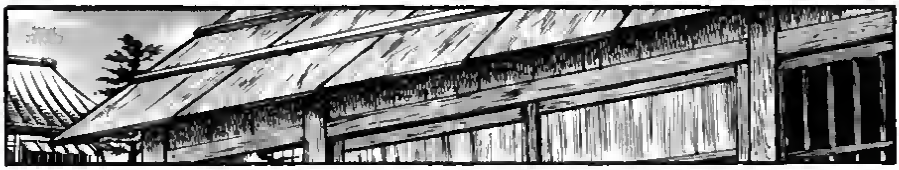
181 TRAFFIC

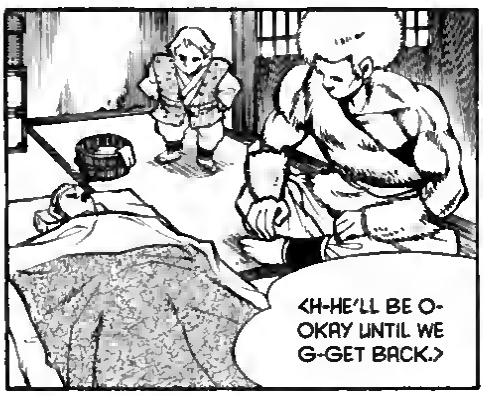
GRUNCH

WH-
WHO WON...?!
DOWNUPP
TWTCH
TWTCH
HAHH...
HAHH...
HAHH...
IF I HADN'T GOTTEN IN THAT KICK, THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT WORSE FOR ME...
IT WAS YOUR OWN PUNCH THAT DID YOU IN.
HUSSSH

YEAAAH!!
やりィ!!
HE DID IT!!

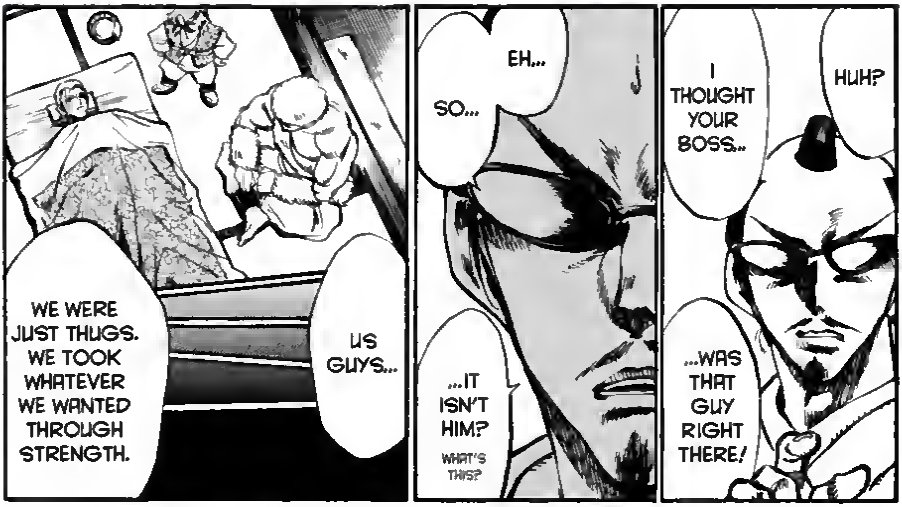
わあああーー!!
YAAAY!!!

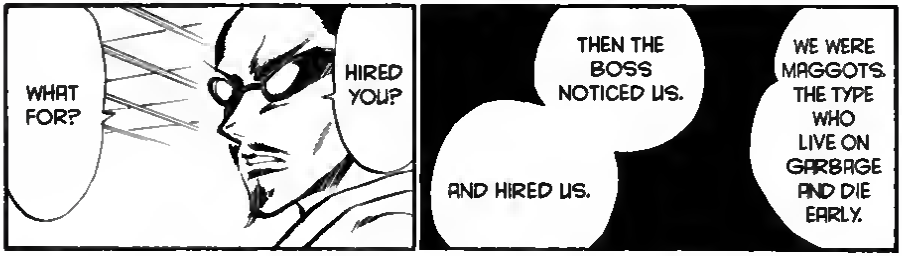



...
<H-HE'LL BE O-OKAY UNTIL WE G-GET BACK.>

<SIGH...>

!
YOU BAS-TARD...!!
HIS WOUNDS ARE PRETTY BAD.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE HIM TO A HOS-PITAL...?
I-IT PROBABLY HURTS MORE THAT HE WAS BEATEN IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY.
I-IT'S ALL RIGHT. MAX DOESN'T BOTHER WITH I-INJURIES ON THIS SCALE.
HEH! AND THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR YOUR RICH DADDIES, HUH?
A HOS-PITAL WOULD PINPOINT YOUR LO-CATION.
...H-HE WON'T GO TO ANY HOS-PITAL.
IF HE'S M-MADE IT THIS FAR...
WE DON'T GOT MONEY OR ANY HIGH-CLASS PARENTS.
...WE WON'T EVER BE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL AGAIN.
YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG!
WE... MAX, SAM AND ME...
WE WERE HIRED.
HIRED BY SOME BOSS WE'VE NEVER SEEN.
AND WHOEVER IT IS DOESN'T ACCEPT FAILURE.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


WE WERE JUST THUGS. WE TOOK WHATEVER WE WANTED THROUGH STRENGTH.
US GUYS...
EH...
SO...
...IT ISN'T HIM?
WHAT'S THIS?
I THOUGHT YOUR BOSS...
HUH?
...WAS THAT GUY RIGHT THERE!


WHAT FOR?
HIRED YOU?
WE WERE MAGGOTS. THE TYPE WHO LIVE ON GARBAGE AND DIE EARLY.
THEN THE BOSS NOTICED US.
AND HIRED US.

NO JAP COULD EVER UNDER-STAND!
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE YOUR FACE SHOVED IN A CRAPPER FULL OF TURDS!
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF WE TOLD YOU.
S-SO YOU'RE AWAKE, MAX?
!!
YOU JERK!
.....
HUMPH!
FOR A LOT OF THINGS

DON'T GIVE ME THAT!!
WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS NOTHING NEW TO ME.
HUH? WHAT'S THE TOUGH ACT FOR?
AFTER LOSING LIKE A DOG!
YOU USELESS ASS!! I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THAT FROM YOU!!
I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT NOW!!
STOP HIM, SAM!!
GRIMO
SHUT UP!!
LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
WE LOST!! IN A STRAIGHT-OUT BRAWL!!
COME ON, MAX! WE CAN ADMIT THAT AT LEAST!
YOU CREEP!! I JUST REMEMBERED!!
!!
MY CHARM!! GIVE ME BACK MY CHARM!!
HURRY UP!! I WAS ON THE VERGE OF FORGETTING IT LIKE AN IDIOT!
WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY?
DID HE HIT HIS HEAD OR SOMETHING? HIS ATTITUDE WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BEFORE...

TSUKAMOTO TEN
HARIMA KENJI
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE PAINS I WENT THROUGH FOR JUST ONE LITTLE CHARM!
BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO FULFILL MY PROMISE TO TENMA AND BOTH GO TO THE SHRINE TOGETHER!
YOU'RE FINALLY BACK SAFE AND SOUND!!
YEAH ... !!
THAT'S BAD ENOUGH!
I MEAN ME AND THE PRINCESS? COME ON!
...WAS BECAUSE YOUR BOSS GOT THE MISTAKEN IDEA THAT THE PRINCESS AND I WERE AN ITEM.
THIS WHOLE OPERATION OF YOURS...
THERE'S ONE THING I JUST DON'T GET.
BUT WAIT...
LIKE ACTUALLY ON FIRE?
"BURN"?
PROBABLY.
BUT YOU...
GWAA!
WHA...?!
A STORY I UNDERSTAND ALL TOO WELL!
THE THINGS YOU SAID TELL ME A DIFFERENT STORY!
YOU WERE BURNING A BIT TOO HOT FOR JUST A JOB.

Harima & Max: Very Similar.

Representing Japanese Idiots: Harima.
.....
COULD IT BE...
...THAT YOU...
SO I CAN ALMOST SMELL IT!
YOU STINK OF IT!!
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
WE'RE NOT THAT DIFFERENT, YOU AND ME.
HUH...?
...ARE A MAN IN LOVE?
WHY WOULD I FEEL ANYTHING FOR SOME LITTLE HALF-JAPANESE...
WH-WHAT THE...?!
HUH...?
WITH YOUR BOSS?
WHY WOULD A GUY WHO HATES JAPANESE PEOPLE SPEAK THE LANGUAGE SO FLUENTLY?!
BECAUSE YOU GIVE YOUR ALL WHEN YOUR BOSS GIVES YOU A JOB, RIGHT?
I'M IMPRESSED!
HAAA!!
SO YOU ARE!! I KNEW IT!!
THAT'S ONE FOR THE BOOKS!!
GA HA HA HA!
Id
Id
Id
Id
Id
Id
Pl

M-MAX...?
"ON THE HEAD"?! YOU MISSED IT BY MILES!!
DON'T GET TICKED OFF JUST 'CAUSE I HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD!!
OW!! THAT HURT, YOU JERK!!
IT'S A WIDE WORLD, AND...
NOW... I REALLY AM GOING TO KILL YOU!!
YOU BAS-TARD!!
<HE LOST...?>
<A GOOD GUARD DOG WOULD HAVE SERVED US BETTER.>
<MAD MAX LOST? HE'S NO USE AT ALL, IS HE?>
<BUT IT'LL BE WORSE WITHOUT THOSE GUYS. WE NEED SOMEBODY TO CLEAN UP THE MESS.>
<WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM? FIRE HIM?>
<AND EVEN THOUGH HE WENT ON A MEANINGLESS RAMPAGE AND LOST HIS BOUT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'VE LOST.>
<SO LET'S OVERLOOK THEIR LITTLE FOIBLES THIS TIME.>
<HEY, YOU GUYS ARE SO COLDHEARTED.>
<THOSE GUYS ARE CLOSE FRIENDS OF MINE, AND THEY HAVE MY RESPECT.>

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SCHOOL RUMBLE★UMA FILE

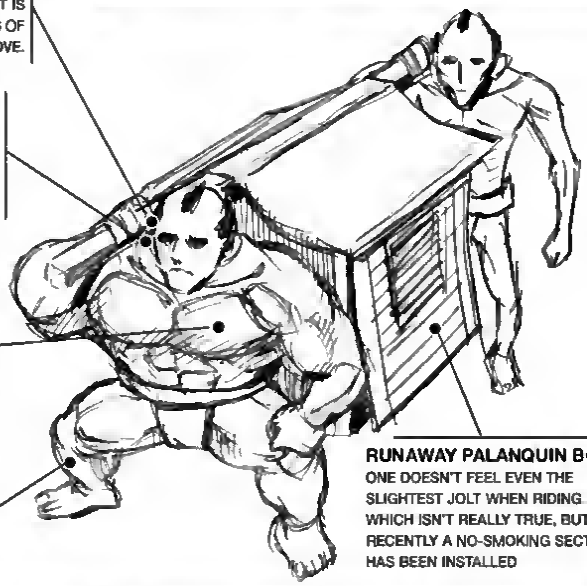
File002 Runaway Palanquin

RUNAWAY PALANQUIN EARS
CAN IT HEAR A PIN DROP FROM A KILOMETER AWAY? NO, BUT IT IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE CRIES OF ONE IN LOVE.

RUNAWAY PALANQUIN EYES
EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY TO SEE OBJECTS IN MOTION THAT IS THREE TIMES NORMAL HUMAN CAPACITY. . OR IT SHOULD BE UNFORTUNATELY IT BUMPS INTO PEOPLE A LOT, SO ONE SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL AROUND IT.

RUNAWAY PALANQUIN HEART
SEETHING WITH HOT BLOOD, THIS PART IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PALANQUIN TO RUN. HOWEVER IT BEATS ESPECIALLY FAST WHEN TOUCHED BY TRUE LOVE.

RUNAWAY PALANQUIN FEET
CAN RUN A THOUSAND RI (3900 KM, 2500 MI) IN A SINGLE NIGHT. . WELL, MAYBE NOT, BUT THE PALANQUIN'S FEET ARE SOLIDLY BUILT IF MAYBE A LITTLE SMELLY.



RUNAWAY PALANQUIN BODY
ONE DOESN'T FEEL EVEN THE SLIGHTEST JOLT WHEN RIDING .. WHICH ISN'T REALLY TRUE, BUT RECENTLY A NO-SMOKING SECTION HAS BEEN INSTALLED

CHARACTERISTICS

• HABITAT: KYOTO • FAVORITE ITEMS: PRETTY YOUNG LADIES • SPEED 60 KM/HR (37 MPH)
• SOUNDS GENERATED: EH-HO, BUHEEHEEN • LEG SPECIALTIES: FRONT LEGS: CLIMBING, BACK LEGS: DOWNHILL
• SPECIAL TECHNIQUES: THE RUNAWAY PALANQUIN BODY PRESS

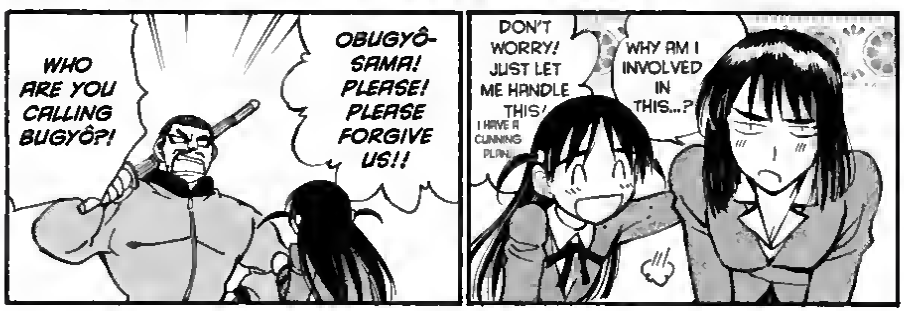
○EXPLANATION

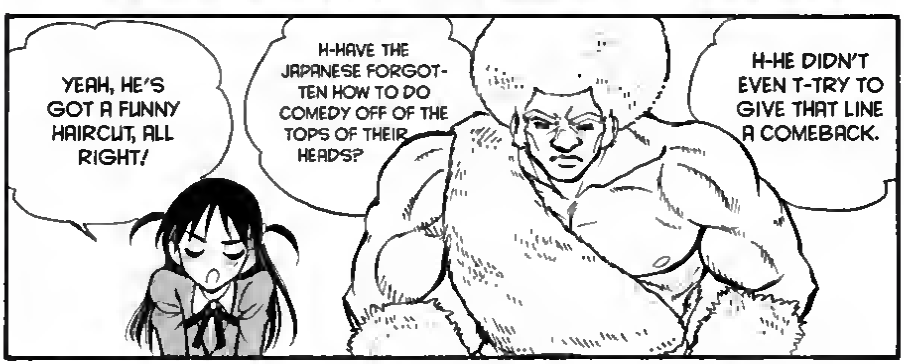
THE RUNAWAY PALANQUIN'S NATIVE LAND IS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS FAR FROM HUMAN HABITATION. IT IS SOMEWHAT FLIGHTY AND NOT VERY USED TO HUMAN CONTACT. BUT ONCE IT RECOGNIZES A HUMAN AS ITS MASTER, IT IS A VERY LOYAL ANIMAL WHO WOULD NOT THINK TWICE TO SACRIFICE ITS OWN LIFE FOR ITS OWNER.

ACCORDING TO ONE STORY, A FEUDAL LORD SOMEWHERE AROUND THE OLD CAPITAL CITY TOOK ONE LOOK AT A YOUNG MAIDEN AND FELL IN LOVE. THE MAIDEN WAS IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER MAN, BUT THE LORD'S INFATUATION AND POLITICAL POWER WAS TOO STRONG, AND THE MAIDEN WAS PROMISED IN MARRIAGE TO HIM. HOWEVER, THE PALANQUIN IN WHICH THE MAIDEN WAS RIDING ON HER MATRIMONIAL PARADE WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE HER FUTURE. IT MADE A DASH FROM THE PARADE, AND ALTHOUGH THE LORD'S SOLDIERS CHASED AND ATTACKED THE PALANQUIN MANY TIMES, IT WAS ABLE TO CONVEY THE MAIDEN INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO JOIN THE MAN SHE LOVED. OF COURSE THE LORD COMBED THE MOUNTAINS, BUT NO ONE WAS EVER ABLE TO FIND THE PALANQUIN, MAIDEN, OR EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE IN THOSE MOUNTAINS. EVENTUALLY THE LORD HAD TO GIVE UP THE SEARCH.

▲ THERE ARE EVEN MODERN CASES OF PALANQUIN SIGHTINGS!

AFTER THAT, PEOPLE WANDERING IN THE SUPPOSEDLY DESERTED MOUNTAIN WOULD CHANCE TO SEE A PALANQUIN RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS OR HAPPEN TO HEAR A "PHUHUHU" SOUND. THE LORD GREW AFRAID WHEN HE HEARD RUMORS OF THE PALANQUIN, AND RESOLVED FROM THEN ON TO BECOME A GOOD OVERLORD. AT THAT, THE PEOPLE REJOICED AND BEGAN TO CALL THE PALANQUIN *AHORE-NARU KAGO*, WHICH MEANS "PALANQUIN OF GOOD DEEDS." AS TIME WENT BY, THE NAME CHANGED TO *AHORE-KAGO*, AND LATER BECOME *ABORE-KAGO*, WHICH MEANS "RUNAWAY PALANQUIN." HOWEVER, THIS STORY CANNOT BE PROVEN.


WHO ARE YOU CALLING BUGYÔ?!
OBUGYÔ-SAMA! PLEASE! PLEASE FORGIVE US!!
DON'T WORRY! JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS!
I HAVE A CUNNING PLAN.
WHY AM I INVOLVED IN THIS...?


YEAH, HE'S GOT A FUNNY HAIRCUT, ALL RIGHT!
H-HAVE THE JAPANESE FORGOTTEN HOW TO DO COMEDY OFF OF THE TOPS OF THEIR HEADS?
H-HE DIDN'T EVEN T-TRY TO GIVE THAT LINE A COMEBACK.

182 | MODELATO CANTABILE

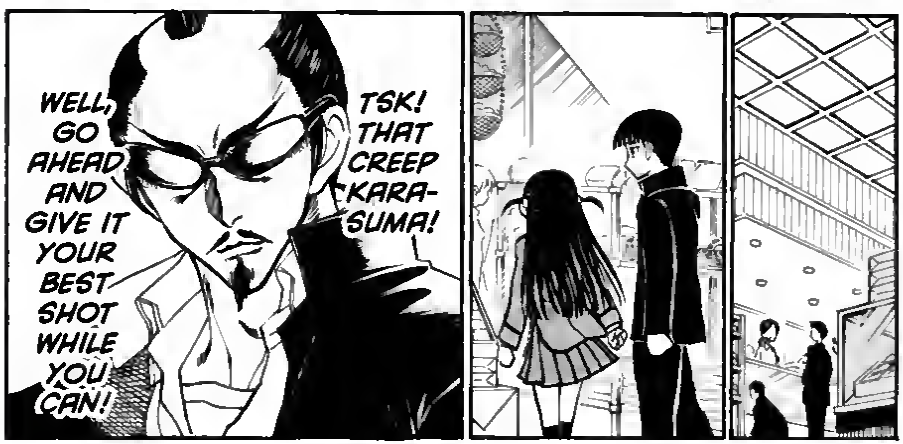
YOU BET! AND YOU SHOW SOME GOOD APPRECIATION YOURSELF!
I'M HAPPY TO SEE IT!
HMM! A-A PUN ON ONE'S HAIR COMING OFF THE TOP OF ONE'S HEAD! YOU SHOW PROMISE!
"S-SAMUEL," HUH? THAT'S AN ODD NAME. MINE IS TENMA.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
TWITCH TWITCH
I-I HAVE COME TO JAPAN TO L-LEARN ITS COMEDY.
Y-YOU MAY CALL ME S-SAMUEL.
NOBODY IS TO STEP FOOT OUTSIDE OF THEIR ROOMS!!
YOU ARE ALL RESTRICTED TO QUARTERS!!
ALL OF YOU!!
YEAH, YEAH! YOU SURE ARE A NICE GUY, "S-SAMUEL"!!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT! YOU MUST HATE THE CRIME, NOT THE CRIMINAL!
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU!
I'M SORRY. NOBODY CAN GO OUT AND HAVE FUN NOW BECAUSE OF ME.
SLEEP
CHATTER
CHATTER

I HEAR THOSE DELINQUENT FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE RESTRICTED, TOO.

HEH! WELL, IT SERVES THEM RIGHT!!
THEY REALLY MADE A SHOW OF IT.
THEY SAY IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT FIGHT IN UZUMASA.

...HE'S ALL BUSTED UP!
AND THAT DELINQUENT MAX...
YEAH! HE'S ANTAGONIZED US A BIT RECENTLY, BUT HE'S REALLY STRONG!
BUT I WAS SHOCKED AT HOW GOOD HARIMA WAS!

.....


WELL, GO AHEAD AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT WHILE YOU CAN!
TSK! THAT CREEP KARA-SUMA!

...MY LOVE RESERVATIONS!
BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE...
HEHN
HARIMA KE
PAT
PAT
NOA NOA
HM?
RAIN?
PLIP
PLIP
GOOD. NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT.
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL JUST WAIT THIS OUT IN HERE.
OH...
THERE'S A SMALL ROOM JUST WAITING FOR ME HERE.

SNEAK
そろ…
SNEAK
そろ～…
!!!
HEY!! SAWACHIKA!!
EH? NO, NO! I'M NOT DOING ANY-THING!!
HUH? ERI-CHAN?
WERE YOU PLANNING ON SNEAKING SOMEWHERE?
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT ON TIME STUCK HERE LIKE THIS.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.

KALOP
KALOP
PRINCESS TENMA, SET YOUR MIND AT EASE!!
HARIMA-SAMA!!
KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH!!
YOU MAY NOT PASS!!
GYAAAA!!
JUST PUNISH-MENT!!

AH, HARIMA-SAMA!
SST
THIS PA-LANQUIN WILL GUIDE YOU SAFELY BACK TO THE CASTLE.
NOW, YOUR HIGH-NESS...
OH, YOU ARE SUCH A RECKLESS PRINCESS! BUT PERHAPS I...
I DO NOT WANT TO RETURN ALL ALONE!
HARIMA-SAMA! PLEASE! PLEASE COME WITH ME!
TMP
EH-HO!
MMMMM...
IS THIS WHERE YOU DESIRE IT...?
PRIN-CESS TENMA...
GRIMP

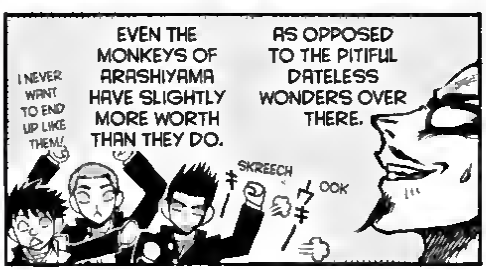
Oh, No! The Charm's Getting Soaked...

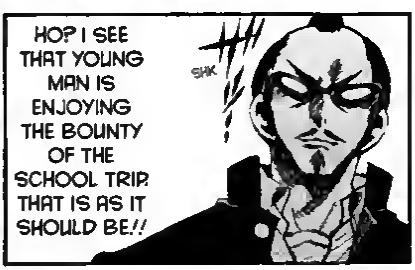
182 · · · · · · · · · Fin

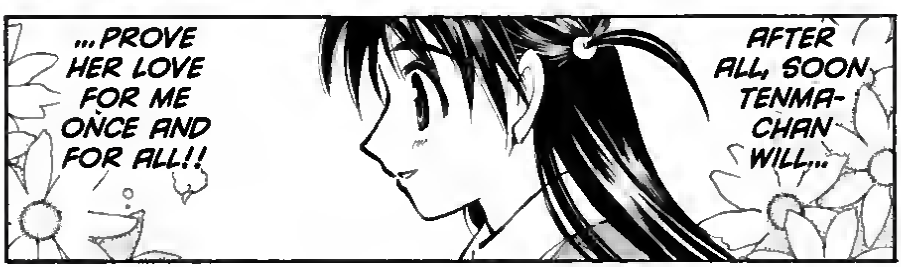
School
Rumble

#183 EFFROYABLES JARDINS

THE MOON, HUH? I WISH IT WERE OUT NOW...
Y-YES... IT HASN'T RISEN YET, HUH?
"ITS CURVE IS EXACTLY LIKE THAT OF THE MOON AS IT TRAVELS THE SKY!"
THAT'S WHAT KAMEYAMA JÔKÔ SAID OF IT, AND THAT IS HOW IT GOT ITS NAME.

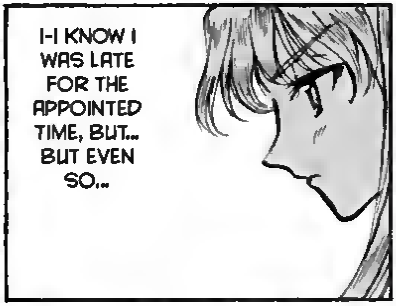

I NEVER WANT TO END UP LIKE THEM!
EVEN THE MONKEYS OF ARASHIYAMA HAVE SLIGHTLY MORE WORTH THAN THEY DO.
AS OPPOSED TO THE PITIFUL DATELESS WONDERS OVER THERE.
SKREECH
OOK

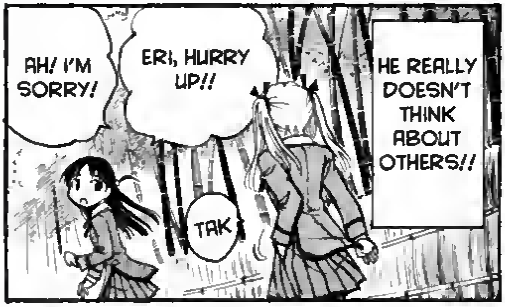




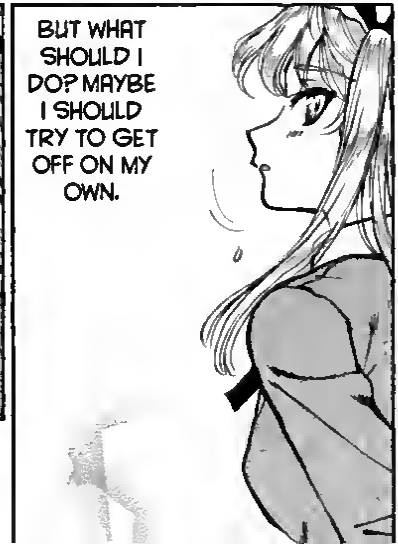
BUT-THAT MEANS SHE IS WAITING FOR ME TO CHARGE INTO ACTION!! AND I WILL SHOW HER WHAT A MAN REALLY IS!!
...BUT I AWAIT THE QUICKLY APPROACHING MOMENT WHEN YOU AND I WILL BE ALONE!
TENMA-CHAN. NOW, YOU ROVE ABOUT WITH YOUR COMPANIONS...
GWOOGH
COME TO THINK OF IT, MIKOTO AND THE GROUP ARE COMPLETELY CLUELESS.
...I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING ALONE WITH YOU SOON.
RIGHT NOW, I'M WITH MY GROUP, BUT...
BEARD... IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S WATCHING ME AGAIN.
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...?
BUT...
SHIF

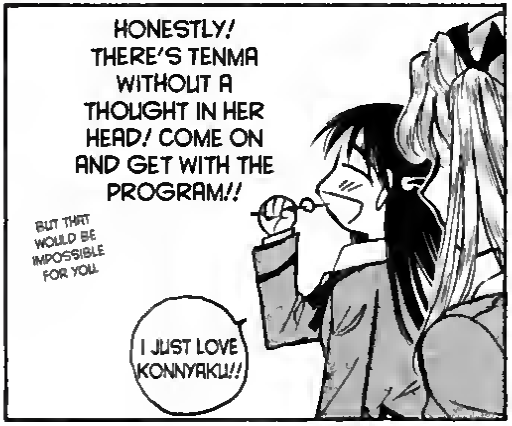
BUT LOOKING AT THIS, IT MUST BE...
SANNICHIKA ERI HARUMA KENJI
YET HE DIDN'T WAIT FOR ME. HE MUST HAVE GONE ALONE, HUNG THIS CHARM, AND LEFT.


I-I KNOW I WAS LATE FOR THE APPOINTED TIME, BUT... BUT EVEN SO...

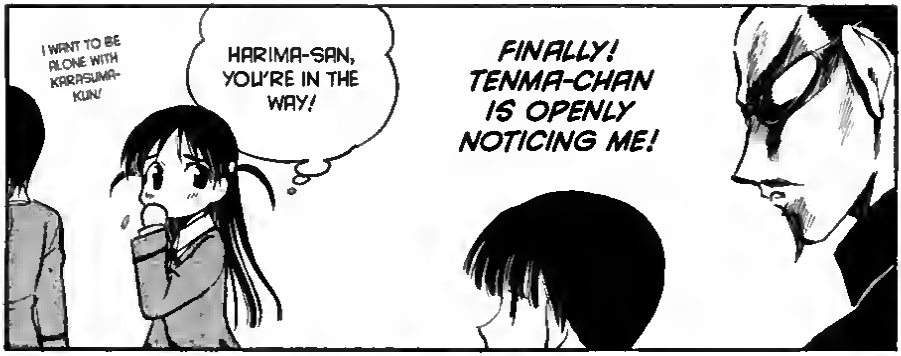

HE REALLY DOESN'T THINK ABOUT OTHERS!!
ERI, HURRY UP!!
AH! I'M SORRY!
TAK

PRINCESS!! COME ON AND FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO!!
HURRY UP AND RELEASE TENMA-CHAN FROM HER BONDAGE!! YOU'RE IN THE WAY HERE!!
ゴゴゴゴ
GWOOGH

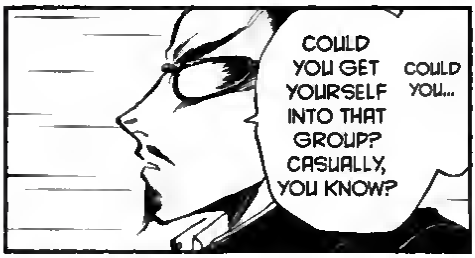

BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO? MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TO GET OFF ON MY OWN.


I JUST LOVE KONNYAKU!!
BUT THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU!
HONESTLY! THERE'S TENMA WITHOUT A THOUGHT IN HER HEAD! COME ON AND GET WITH THE PROGRAM!!

ONE MIGHT THINK I WAS SOME LOVESTRUCK GUY FOLLOWING AROUND A GIRL WHO HAS NO IDEA OF MY FEELINGS.
BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW HER AS THINGS ARE NOW.
ちりりん
CHIRRING
HM...?
MMM... WHAT TO DO...?
HEY, KARA-SUMA!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE THAT WE'RE GOING THE SAME DI-RECTION!
CHIRRING ちりりん
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? HE AND I WILL TEAM UP FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
TMP たっ
OR IS HE, MUCH LIKE MYSELF, WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
SO KARASUMA IS GOING IT ALONE, TOO?
YOU CREEP! YOU KNOW I'M HERE, DON'T YOU?!
ちりりん
CHIRRING
DON'T IGNORE ME! WAIT UP!
I SAID, "HEY"!
HEY!
ちりりん
CHIRRING
そわ
そわ
CHATTER
CHATTER


I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH KARASUMA-KUN!
HARIMA-SAN, YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
FINALLY! TENMA-CHAN IS OPENLY NOTICING ME!

NOW IS WHEN I GET MY TIME ALONE WITH TENMA-CHAN!
YOU CAN'T BE LED AWAY BY THEM ANYMORE!


COULD YOU GET YOURSELF INTO THAT GROUP? CASUALLY, YOU KNOW?
COULD YOU...

SAY, KARA-SUMA!

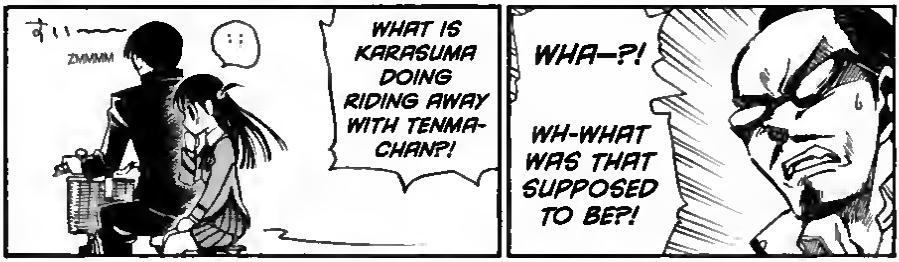
HMM... WHERE ARE WE? ÔKAWACHI SANSÔ.
EH? WHO LIVES IN THAT HOUSE OVER THERE?

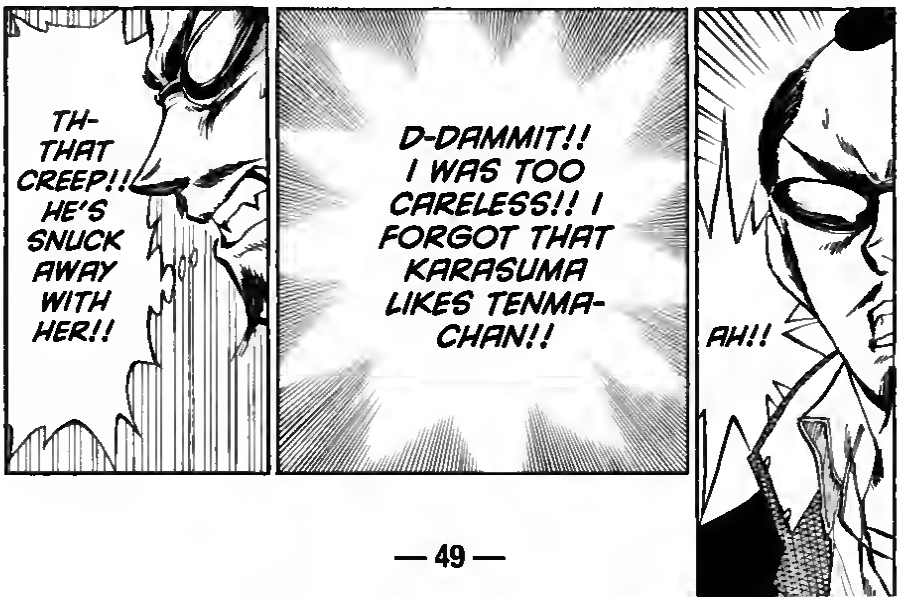
CAN YOU DO THAT?
NOD
GOOD! I THOUGH YOU COULD!

I WANT TO SEPARATE OUT THE PRINCESS AND SUÔ AND... WHAT'S HER NAME? OH, TAKANO!

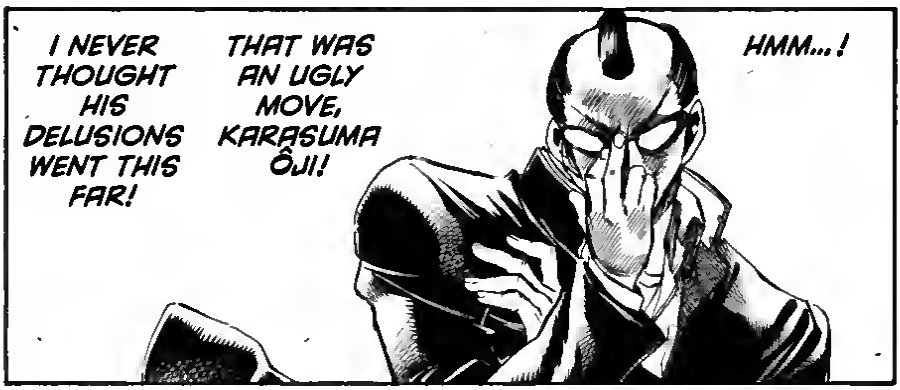
RIGHT!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL HE DOES THIS!

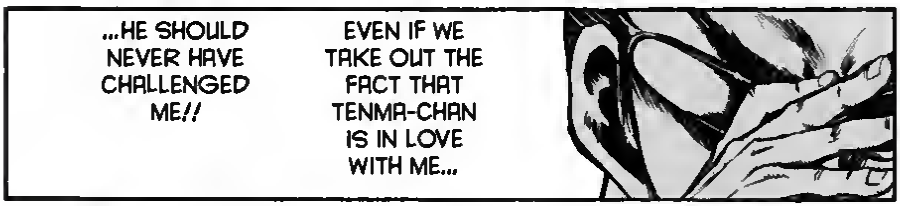
CHRRNG
ちりりん
?!


ZMMMM
WHAT IS KARASUMA DOING RIDING AWAY WITH TENMA-CHAN?!
WHA—?!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?!


TH-THAT CREEP!! HE'S SNUCK AWAY WITH HER!!
D-DAMMIT!! I WAS TOO CARELESS!! I FORGOT THAT KARASUMA LIKES TENMA-CHAN!!
AH!!

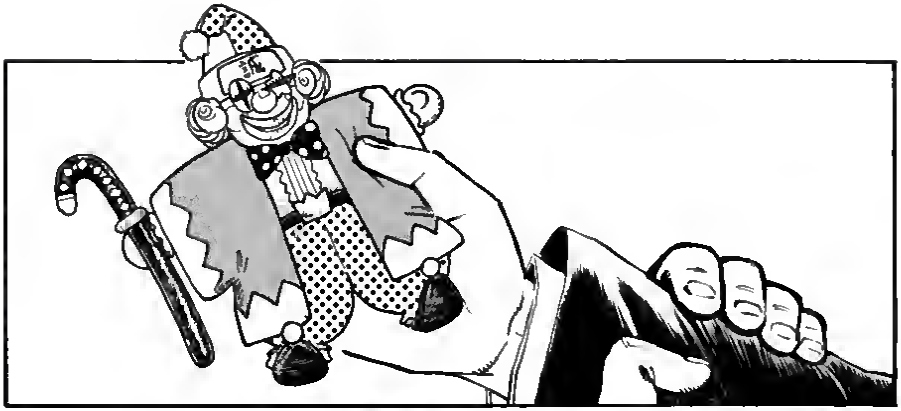
CHRRING

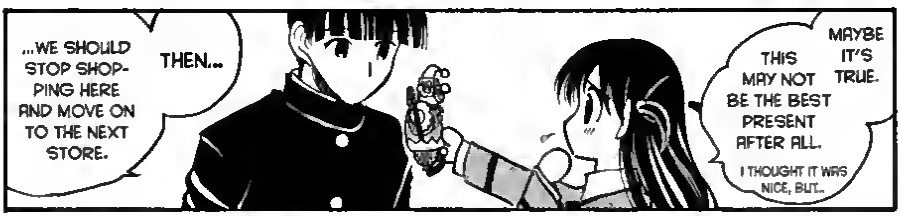

I NEVER THOUGHT HIS DELUSIONS WENT THIS FAR!
THAT WAS AN UGLY MOVE, KARASUMA ÔJI!
HMM...!

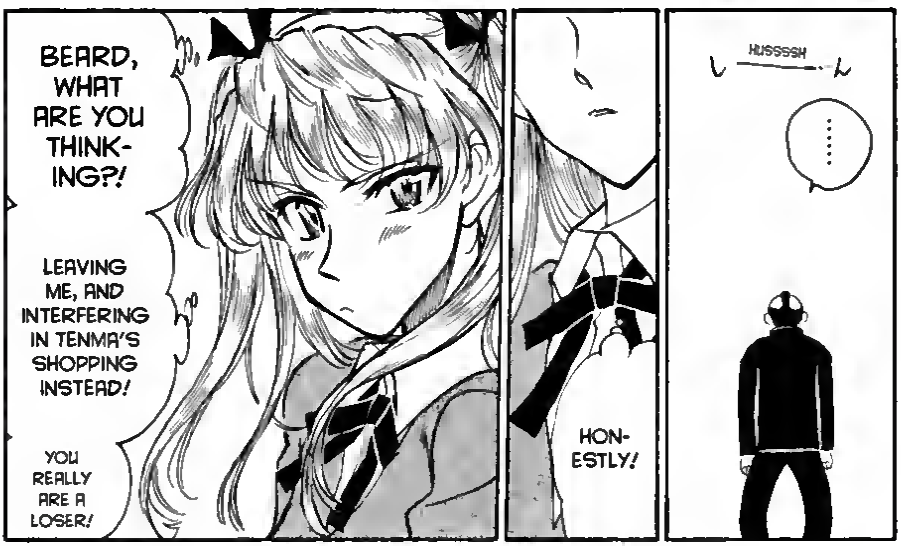

...HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE CHALLENGED ME!!
EVEN IF WE TAKE OUT THE FACT THAT TENMA-CHAN IS IN LOVE WITH ME...

I WILL TEACH YOU THE TRUTH!!
THEN I ACCEPT!! I WILL TEACH YOU HOW PITIFUL YOU ARE!!

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
EH...?
YOU ARE...
...ONE STUPID-LOOKING CLOWN, YOU KNOW THAT?!
GRINCH
YOU HEARD ME!!
NOW SHAPE UP...
...AND STOP THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!!




...WE SHOULD STOP SHOPPING HERE AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STORE.
THEN...
THIS MAY NOT BE THE BEST PRESENT AFTER ALL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS NICE, BUT..
MAYBE IT'S TRUE.



Everybody Makes Mistakes.

183 · · · · · · · · · Fin

SCHOOL RUMBLE★UMA FILE

File003 Dracula

DRACULA NOSE
A LARGE AQUILINE NOSE COMMON AMONG WESTERNERS SENSITIVE TO THE SMELL OF GARLIC ALLERGIES TO PINE POLLEN IN THE SPRING AND RAGWEED IN THE AUTUMN GIVE HIM MANY TROUBLES.

DRACULA HEAD
PRESENTLY COIFFED IN A WAVY RECENT STYLE. BUT NORMALLY HE SLEEPS IN HIS COFFIN AND HE GETS "MORNING HAIR" EASILY. A HAIR-FASHION REJECT.

DRACULA MOUTH
HE IS TROUBLED BY THE GARLICKY SMELL OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MOUTHS, BUT HE IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE SMELLS EMANATING FROM HIS OWN MOUTH.

CHARACTERISTICS

• HABITAT: ROMANIA • FAVORITE SAYING: THE STAKE THAT STICKS OUT GETS HAMMERED DOWN.
• FAVORITE GAME: *EV*L C*STLE: DRACULA* • FAVORITE ANIME: *V*MPIRE H*NTER D, OAV VERSION*
• FAVORITE MANGA: *M*NSTER-KUN*

○EXPLANATION

IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE, DRACULA MEANS "CHILD OF THE DRAGON," OR "CHILD OF THE DEVIL." IT WAS THAT DEVIL'S CHILD THAT FIRST CAME TO JAPAN TO BE A PART OF A *GOKON* (GROUP DATE) MEETING THAT FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER WAS ARRANGING. AS LONG AS IT WAS FOR A *GOKON*, HE DIDN'T MIND THE LONG JOURNEY TO JAPAN. HE SEEMS TO REALLY LOVE A *GOKON*. BUT HE WAS GIVEN INADEQUATE DIRECTIONS, AND SOON BECAME LOST ON THE UNFAMILIAR JAPANESE STREETS. IT LED HIM TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR CLASS 1-D'S HAUNTED HOUSE ATTRACTION DURING THE YAGAMI FESTIVAL. IS HE SIMPLY UNABLE TO READ MAPS?

HE IS AVERSE TO SUCH THINGS AS STAKES, CROSSES, AND GARLIC, AND THAT MAKES HIM JUST A NORMAL DRACULA. HE LOVES TOMATO JUICE. HE CAN PUT PEOPLE AT EASE, PARTLY BECAUSE HE NEVER REVEALS HOW HE LOVES TO SUCK PEOPLE DRY OF BLOOD, AND PARTLY DUE TO HIS GENTLEMANLY APPEARANCE. OTHERS WHO HAVE ALSO APPEARED WITH HIM AT A *GOKON* HAVE COMMENTED ON HIS ABILITY TO "GET THE CUTE GIRL."

▲ WORKING HARD ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HAUNTED HOUSE. A SERIOUS SIDE OF HIM.

HE SEEMS TO HAVE POWERS TO TRANSFORM INTO A WOLF OR BAT AND TO TAKE CONTROL OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS. BUT EVEN WITH SUCH TREMENDOUS POWERS, THE LIGHT OF THE SUN IS SOMETHING HE CANNOT STAND, SO HIS ACTIVITIES ARE LIMITED TO THE NIGHTTIME. DURING THE DAY, HE MOSTLY SLEEPS. BECAUSE OF HIS NIGHT-OWL LIFESTYLE, HE IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH REGARD TO LATE-NIGHT ANIME BROADCASTS. HE ALSO IS A LOVER OF MANGA. HE IS INDEPENDENTLY WEALTHY AND HAS NEVER NEEDED TO WORK, SO HE HAS TURNED INTO A PLAYBOY THAT'S GIVEN HIM THE REPUTATION AS THE NEET (NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, OR TRAINING) OF ROMANIA.

#184 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

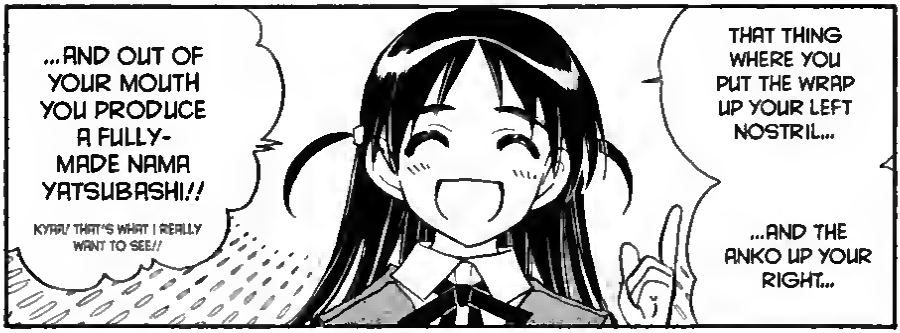
...TENMA AND... BEARD?
HM? ISN'T THAT...
I MEAN, YOU FAINTED FROM ANEMIA A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
KACHUNK
HARIMA-KUN, ARE YOU SITTING THERE BECAUSE YOU DON'T FEEL WELL?
YOU SHOULDN'T OVEREXERT, YOU KNOW! YOU DON'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR SCHOOL TRIP!
17TH TEA
WHY DON'T YOU DRINK THIS AND RELAX.
YEAH, THEY'RE FILMING SOMETHING HERE.
YEAH, I KNOW! I'LL SEARCH OUT WHERE THEY'RE FILMING!
YEAH, YAKUMO?
UH-HUH! THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE IN UZUMASA!
17TH TEA
.....
LLLLL...
GULP

DO YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, HARIMA-KUN?
HERE, HAVE SOME NAMA YATSU-BASHI!
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
MY NAME IS YAKUSHAMARU KÔJI. I AM AN ACTOR.
WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF MY WORK, THEY MOSTLY THINK OF MY *THREE TO GET KILLED* SERIES. AS A SIDE NOTE, I DISLIKE NAMA YATSUBASHI INTENSELY.

SHE SEEMED UNDER THE STRANGE IMPRESSION THAT I WAS A CLASSMATE OF HERS.
DURING THE FILMING OF MY MOST RECENT PROJECT, GAKURAN I SAMURAI, I HAPPENED UPON A YOUNG GIRL.
PERHAPS IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE IS A FOOL.
PERHAPS SHE WAS MISLED BY MY ACTOR'S AURA.
...I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH CLEAR EYES.
HOWEVER...
THIS WILL BE MY GIFT THAT I LEAVE TO JAPAN, WHO RAISED ME TO MY PRESENT STATUS.
THIS FILM OF MINE WILL BE SEEN BY HOLLYWOOD AND THE WHOLE WORLD.
I AM A PROFESSIONAL, AFTER ALL.
I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BE THE CAUSE OF THOSE EYES CLOUDING OVER
I WILL PLAY THE PART OF THIS HARIMA FOR HER SAKE.

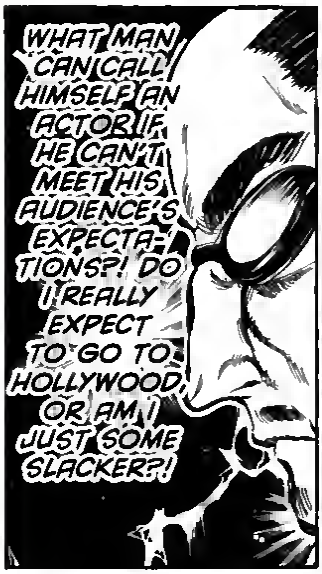
HARIMA-KUN! DO YOU WANT SOME KU-SUKIRI?
コク…
NOD
HERE!
YOU ALWAYS DID LIKE THIS STUFF!
OH, I'VE GOT AN IDEA, HARIMA-KUN!
DO THAT THING YOU ALWAYS DO!
EH? "ALWAYS DO"...?
YOU KNOW! THAT THING WHERE YOU STICK A KUSUKIRI UP YOUR RIGHT NOSTRIL AND IT COMES OUT OF THE LEFT!
WHAT WAS THAT?
THIS HARIMA DOES TRICKS LIKE THAT? HOW CRASS!!
BUT MAYBE THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIS PART WORTH PLAYING!!

ス…
SST
ふぅ…
FLIP
HEH HEH... ANY ACTOR WHO CAN'T RISE TO A CHALLENGE LIKE THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO WIN THE JAPANESE ACADEMY AWARD AS I HAVE.
FLIPPA
ちゃらん
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GOOD AT THAT, HARIMA-KUN!!
WOW!! THAT'S AMAZING !!
EH...?
I'VE GOT THE NAMA YATSUBASHI WRAPS AND ANKO SWEET-BEAN PASTE RIGHT HERE!
SEE HERE?!
WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT BIG SHOW THAT YOU DID BEFORE?!
YEAH, BUT THAT'S JUST A WARM-UP!


...AND OUT OF YOUR MOUTH YOU PRODUCE A FULLY-MADE NAMA YATSUBASHI!!
KYAA! THAT'S WHAT I REALLY WANT TO SEE!!
THAT THING WHERE YOU PUT THE WRAP UP YOUR LEFT NOSTRIL...
...AND THE ANKO UP YOUR RIGHT...

BUT THOSE EYES... SHE REALLY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!!

D-DON'T BE STUPID!! WAIT A SECOND... IT'S TRUE THAT ISN'T SOMETHING ANYONE SHOULD DO...!!


WHAT MAN CAN CALL HIMSELF AN ACTOR IF HE CAN'T MEET HIS AUDIENCE'S EXPECTATIONS?! DO I REALLY EXPECT TO GO TO HOLLYWOOD, OR AM I JUST SOME SLACKER?!

I'M GOING TO DO IT!! JUST WATCH ME!!
THAT'S DONE. NOW IT GOES INTO THE MOUTH AND COMES TOGETHER...!!
ZLOOP
ZLP
I DID IT!!!
BEHH

From a Fool for Actors to an Acting Fool...

184 . . . . . Fin

SCHOOL RUMBLE★UMA FILE

File004 Ryû Nenji

NENJI EYES
SHARP EYES, ESPECIALLY KEEN AT DISCERNING STUDENTS WHOSE GRADES OR ATTENDANCE RECORD ARE SUB-PAR. THE POWER OF HIS EYES ALONE CAN MAKE HIS TARGET TURN AROUND TO DISCOVER HIM STANDING THERE WATCHING.

NENJI MOUTH
NORMALLY HE IS EXTREMELY SILENT, BUT WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES, HE CAN GIVE A STUDENT A FIERY LECTURE ON THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE STUDENT'S FUTURE.

NENJI FOOT
WHEN HE HAS A STUDENT WHO IS ON THE EDGE OF FAILING, HE HAS ALL THE FANCY FOOTWORK NECESSARY TO KEEP THE STUDENT FROM ESCAPING HIS LECTURE. HIS FEET HAVE SOMETHING OF AN OLD-PERSON SMELL.

CHARACTERISTICS

- BIRTHPLACE: SHINSHŪ, NAGANO PREFECTURE • FAVORITE FOOD: WASABI • MOTTO: TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND.
- HABITUAL UTTERANCE: YOU'RE NEXT!
- ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE: MAKING THE STUDENT GROVEL BEFORE HIS FRANKENSTEIN-LIKE VISAGE

EXPLANATION

HE IS NORMALLY NEVER SEEN, BUT HE APPEARS TO ISSUE HIS WARNING TO STUDENTS WHO ARE IN DANGER OF BEING HELD BACK A YEAR. THOSE STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HEED HIS WARNING ARE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, HELD BACK A YEAR, SO HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE MONIKER, "HOLD-BACK-SENSEI." NEARLY ALL WHO SEE HIM AT FIRST CHALK HIM UP TO BEING A FIGMENT OF THEIR IMAGINATIONS, BUT SOON SIGHTINGS OF HIM INCREASE. PERHAPS HE IS SEEN IN THE SHADOWS OF A TELEPHONE POLE, IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROWD, AS AN EXTRA IN A HONG KONG MOVIE, IN THE SHAPE OF THE CARAMEL-BROWN SAUCE OF A PUDDING DESSERT, OR IN THE CROWD WAITING IN THE SAKURAGI-CHO TRAIN STATION FOR THE EXPRESS TRAIN TO ARRIVE. WHEN YOU REPEATEDLY SEE HIS FIERCE FACE, YOU MUST GIVE UP HOPE OF ESCAPE.
HE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF YAGAMI HIGH BY THE YAGAMI HIGH MYSTERY RESEARCH CLUB, AND THEY ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND HIS APPEARANCES. ONE MEMBER CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN SCORING LOW GRADES ON EXAMS ON PURPOSE TO INCREASE THE CHANCES OF A HOLD-BACK-SENSEI SIGHTING. HOWEVER, OTHER MEMBERS HAVE COMMENTED THAT, "HE ISN'T REALLY THAT SMART," AND "I THINK HE'S JUST USING THAT AS AN EXCUSE FOR HIS POOR GRADES."

▲ "HEY, PASS! PASS!" (DURING P.E.)

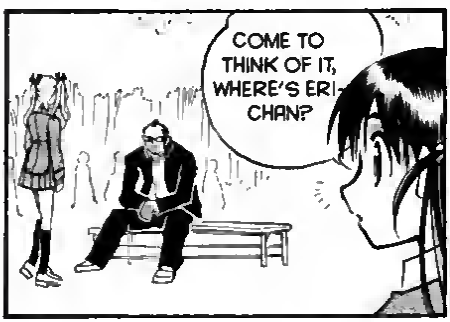
RYŪ NENJI HAS A YOUNGER SISTER NAMED RYŪ SHUTSUKO, WHO IS A SYSTEMS ENGINEER. SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT DATA BLOCKAGE CATASTROPHES CAUSED BY POORLY MAINTAINED COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND VIRUSES.
HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, RYŪ SEIYA, HAS TRAVELED TO ALL SORTS OF REMOTE LOCATIONS, AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SIGHTINGS OF HIM WHEN COMETS ARE PRESENT IN THE SKY. HE IS THE MOST ROMANTIC OF THE FAMILY.

さわ…
CHATTER

カラ
RATTLE
カラ…
RATTLE

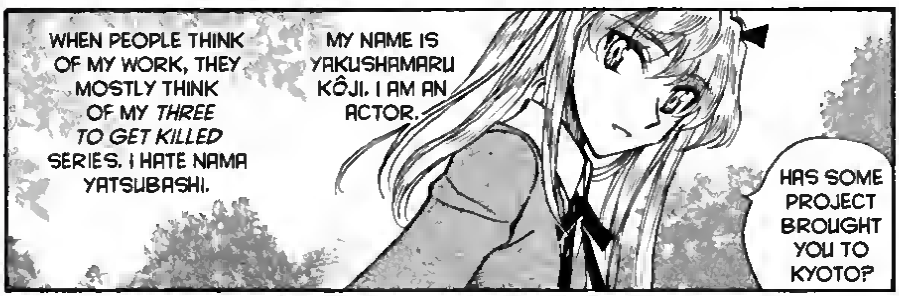
H-HEY, HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH OF THIS?
THIS IS THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW THAT PEOPLE ARE STARING...

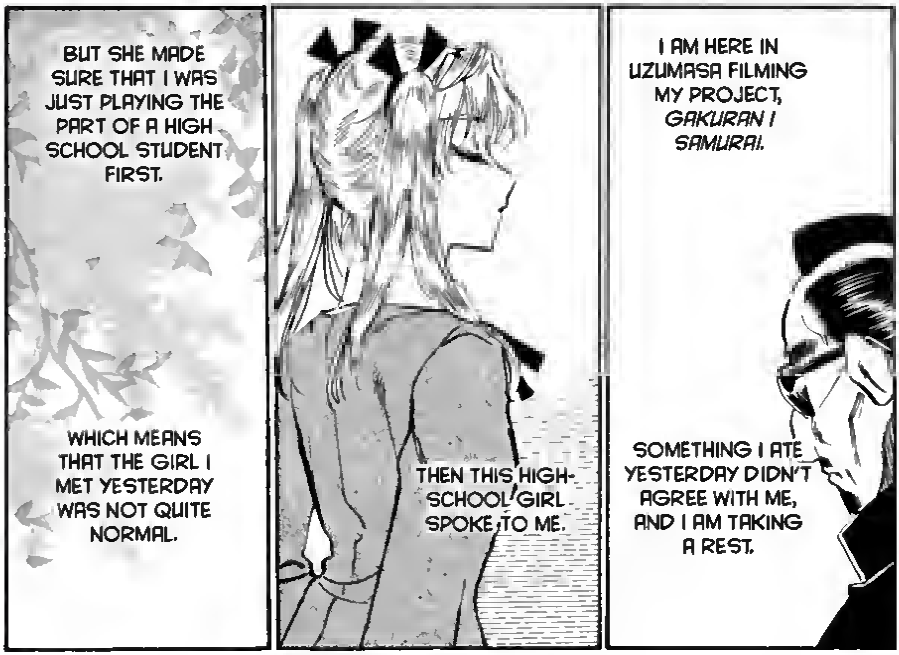
NO! I STILL WANT MORE OF MY SCHOOL TRIP!

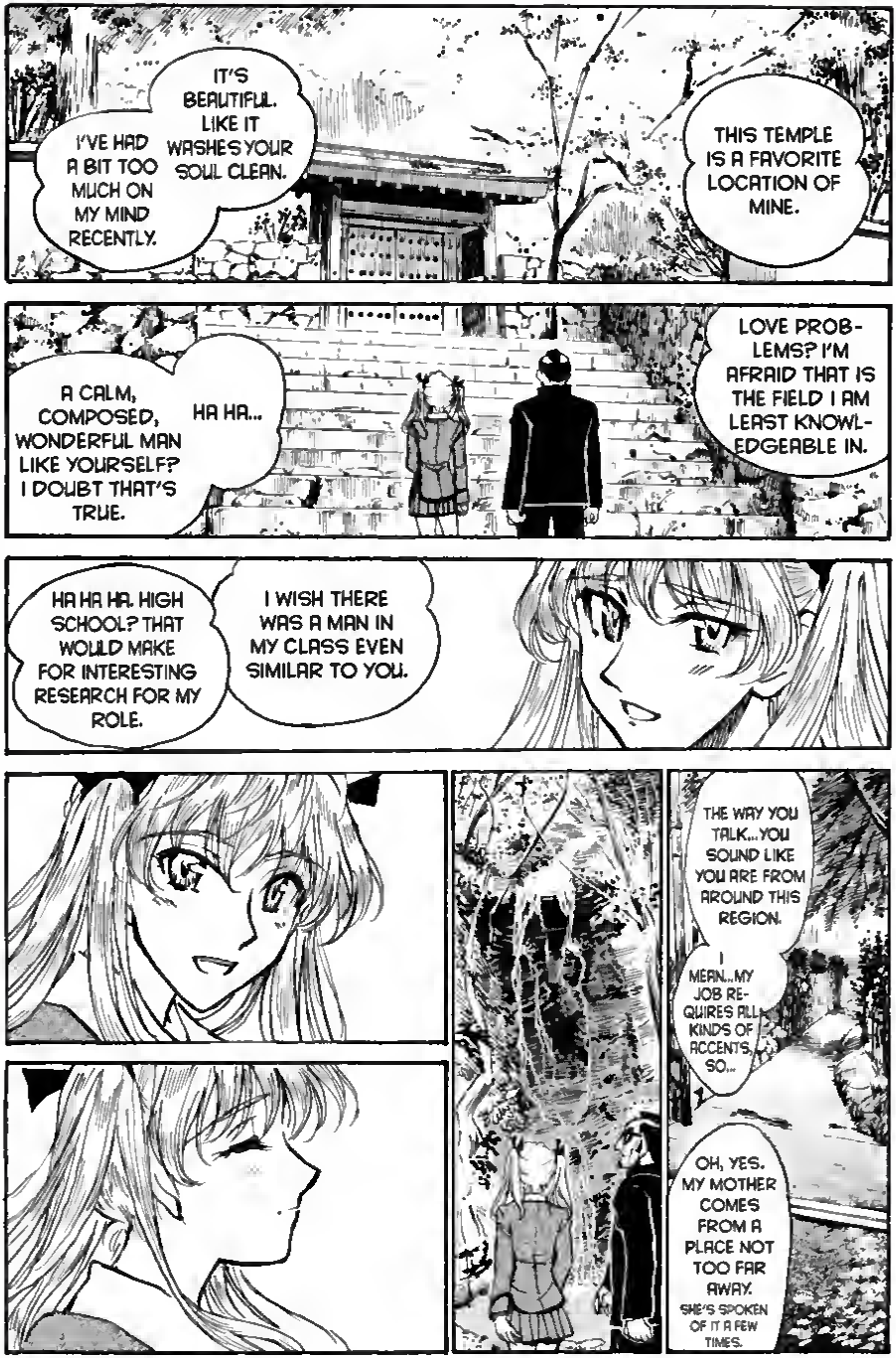

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S ERI-CHAN?

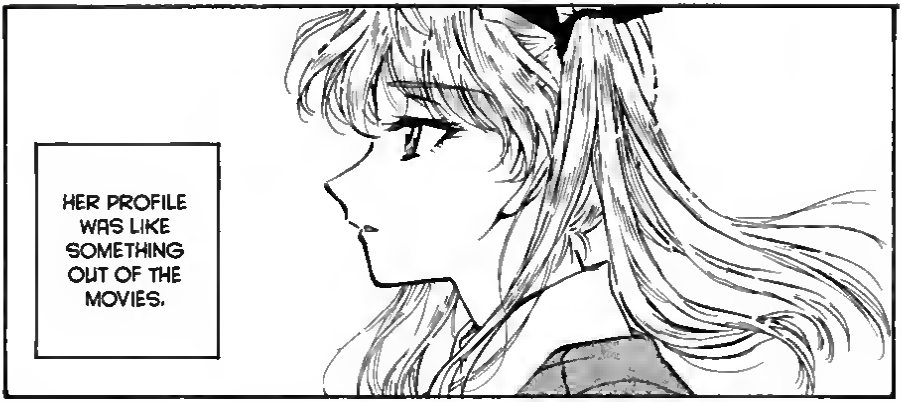
OH, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
YOU'RE SUCH A NICE PERSON, MIKO-CHAN!
MIKO-CHAN!!

I-ISN'T THAT...!!
EHH?!
KA-KLUNK
PLEASE, HAVE SOME OF THIS.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
AND ALL HUNCHED OVER LIKE THAT.
I WAS SURPRISED TO COME ACROSS YOU.
GULP
17TH TEA


WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF MY WORK, THEY MOSTLY THINK OF MY *THREE TO GET KILLED* SERIES. I HATE NAMA YATSUBASHI.
MY NAME IS YAKUSHAMARU KÔJI. I AM AN ACTOR.
HAS SOME PROJECT BROUGHT YOU TO KYOTO?

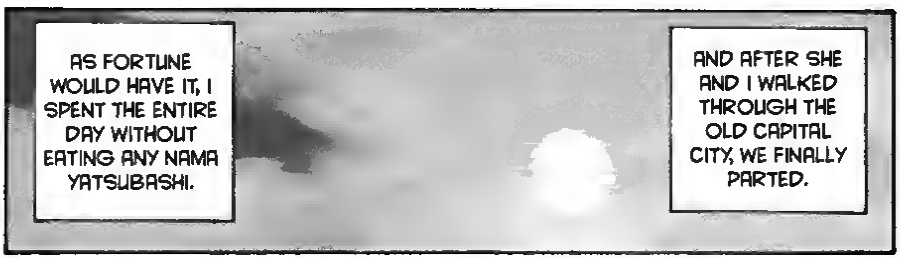

BUT SHE MADE SURE THAT I WAS JUST PLAYING THE PART OF A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FIRST.
WHICH MEANS THAT THE GIRL I MET YESTERDAY WAS NOT QUITE NORMAL.
THEN THIS HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL SPOKE TO ME.
I AM HERE IN UZUMASA FILMING MY PROJECT, *GAKURAN I SAMURAI*.
SOMETHING I ATE YESTERDAY DIDN'T AGREE WITH ME, AND I AM TAKING A REST.


THIS TEMPLE IS A FAVORITE LOCATION OF MINE.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. LIKE IT WASHES YOUR SOUL CLEAN.
I'VE HAD A BIT TOO MUCH ON MY MIND RECENTLY.
LOVE PROBLEMS? I'M AFRAID THAT IS THE FIELD I AM LEAST KNOWLEDGEABLE IN.
HA HA...
A CALM, COMPOSED, WONDERFUL MAN LIKE YOURSELF? I DOUBT THAT'S TRUE.
I WISH THERE WAS A MAN IN MY CLASS EVEN SIMILAR TO YOU.
HA HA HA. HIGH SCHOOL? THAT WOULD MAKE FOR INTERESTING RESEARCH FOR MY ROLE.
THE WAY YOU TALK...YOU SOUND LIKE YOU ARE FROM AROUND THIS REGION.
I MEAN...MY JOB REQUIRES ALL KINDS OF ACCENTS, SO...
OH, YES. MY MOTHER COMES FROM A PLACE NOT TOO FAR AWAY.
SHE'S SPOKEN OF IT A FEW TIMES.

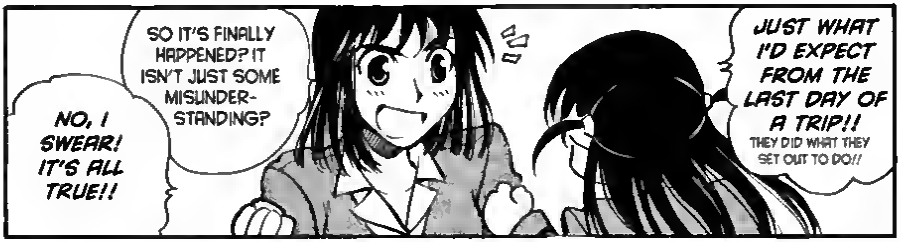

HER PROFILE WAS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE MOVIES.

I SIMPLY STOOD THERE STARING LIKE A FOOL... NO, SHE ALLOWED ME TO OBSERVE.
I COULDN'T EVEN PUT MY THOUGHTS INTO WORDS.

...I REQUIRE MUCH MORE OBSERVATION OF THE HUMAN CONDITION.
BUT IT SEEMS AS AN ACTOR AND AS A MAN...
WHAT THOSE WORRIES COULD BE IS A MYSTERY.
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT ONE SUCH AS SHE WOULD HAVE WORRIES OVER LOVE.

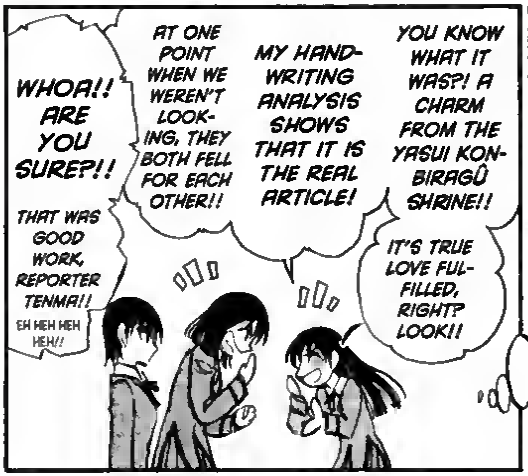

AS FORTUNE WOULD HAVE IT, I SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY WITHOUT EATING ANY NAMA YATSUBASHI.
AND AFTER SHE AND I WALKED THROUGH THE OLD CAPITAL CITY, WE FINALLY PARTED.

...HAD A SECRET DATE ON THE STREETS OF KYOTO!!
I'VE HEARD IT FROM A HUGE NUMBER OF WITNESSES!!
DID YOU HEAR?! ERI-CHAN AND HARIMA-KUN...


SO IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED? IT ISN'T JUST SOME MISUNDER-STANDING?
NO, I SWEAR! IT'S ALL TRUE!!
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE LAST DAY OF A TRIP!!
THEY DID WHAT THEY SET OUT TO DO!!

HM? WHAT IS THIS?
SOME-THING'S FOLDED INTO THE HANDKER-CHIEF...

SORRY, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.
AH!
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I WENT TO GET BACK A HANDKERCHIEF THAT SHE BOR-ROWED...
IT'S OKAY NO PROBLEM.


WHOA!! ARE YOU SURE?!!
AT ONE POINT WHEN WE WEREN'T LOOK-ING, THEY BOTH FELL FOR EACH OTHER!!
MY HAND-WRITING ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT IT IS THE REAL ARTICLE!
YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?! A CHARM FROM THE YASUI KON-BIRAGÛ SHRINE!!
THAT WAS GOOD WORK, REPORTER TENMA!!
EH HEH HEH HEH!!
IT'S TRUE LOVE FUL-FILLED, RIGHT? LOOK!!

WHAT'S THIS?!
SAWACHIKA ERI
HARIMA KENJI

ウィーン
VVVVVV
HM...?
HUSSSSH
HUH?!

わい
わい
CHATTER
CHATTER
THE NEXT DAY, RETURNING FROM THE SCHOOL TRIP...
EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RESTRICTED TO THEIR ROOMS...
BUT YESTERDAY, THERE THEY WERE! THE WHOLE DAY, TOGETHER...
THEN IT'S A CERTAINTY NOW, ISN'T IT?!
.....
.....
MAYBE IT'S JUST MY IMAGI-NATION, BUT...
...I GET THE FEELING THAT I'VE FALLEN INTO SOMEBODY'S TRAP!!
WHY ME?!
HRRRNNN

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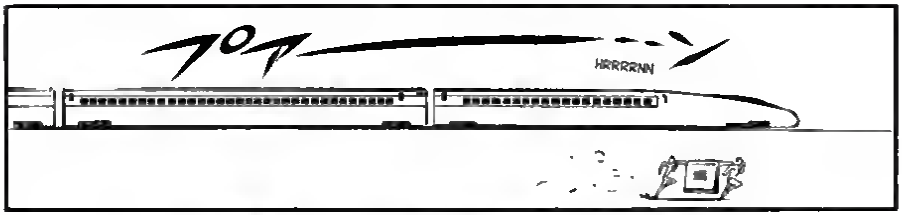


HEY! I AM STILL WAITING FOR THE CARNIVAL WHERE THEY BURN DOWN SOME MOUNTAINS.
IT WAS A GOOD TRIP.
HEH! IT IS SO APPROPRIATE THAT THIS CAPITAL OF REFINEMENT AND TÔGÔ MASAKAZU SHARE A KANJI IN OUR NAMES.

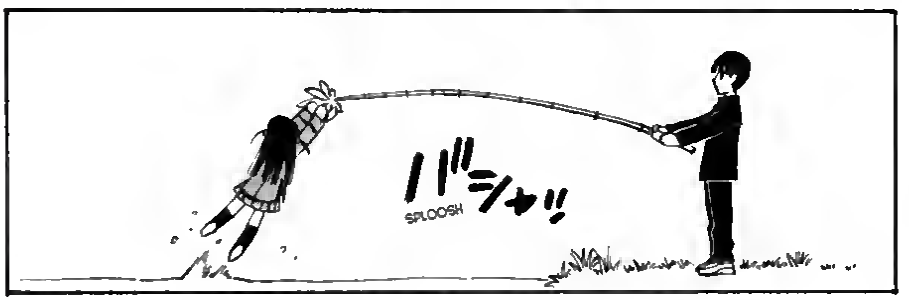
#186 | RIVER OF NO RETURN

<JUST THE TWO>

I HEAR THAT KURAMA-YAMA MOUNTAIN...
...WAS WHERE MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE LEARNED HOW TO SWORD FIGHT FROM THE TENGU!
THEY HAD A DRAMA OF IT A FEW YEARS BACK THAT STARRED PACKY...
...BUT I THINK YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THE PART, KARASUMA-KUN!
.....
コクッ
NOD

Ah... In the Part of the Tengu.

<JUST THE TWO, CONT.>



I HEAR THAT IMADORI-KUN IS GOING TO NARA TODAY...
EH?! THEN THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! YOU CAN GO ALONG WITH HIM!
NARA, HUH...?
BUT THE TRAIN FARE IS SO EXPENSIVE.
I HAVE TO BUY A PRESENT FOR KÔSUKE, AND I CAN'T DO BOTH.
I KNOW! I'LL GO BY BIKE!!
ZHUUUM
AH! I-IMADORI-KUN! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!!
HAHA
OH! IF IT ISN'T ICHI-SAN.
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE HEADING BACK...
EH? UM... YOU'RE ALREADY... GOING?

HM?
OKAY, IMA-DORI-SAN...
...I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU IN KYOTO.
IT'S A PAIN, BUT I GUESS I HAVE TO
I HAVE TO GO BACK BY BIKE AGAIN...?
THE MOUNTAIN SCENERY IS BEAUTIFUL FROM THE ROADS.
EH...?
WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER ON THAT BIKE!
DON'T BE SILLY!
EH...?
HEY, WHY ARE YOU SITTING THERE, ICHI-SAN?
EH HEH HEH
IMADORI-SAN...
HE'S SO NICE!
SHUUM
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO RIDE!
GO, GO! ICHI-SAN!

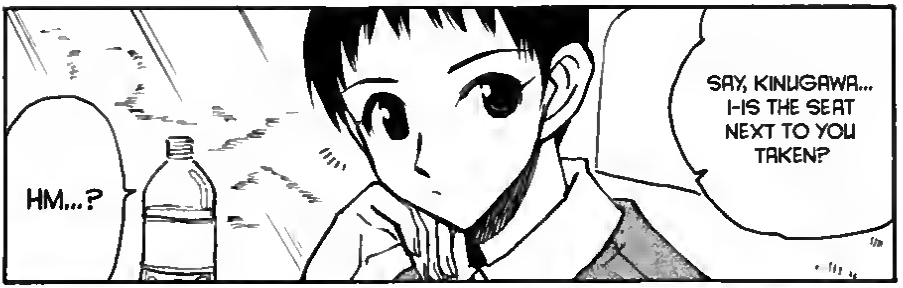
<CHILDHOOD FRIENDS>
HOWEVER, I GOT THESE WOUNDS PROTECTING THE ENTIRE CLASS.
GEEZ! TODAY IS THE LAST TIME I'M DOING THIS!!
EVER SINCE YOU WERE A KID, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
NOT REALLY...
I BET THAT JUST BURNS YOU UP!
SUGA...
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY A WORD!
I KNOW YOU!
WE'VE BEEN HANGING OUT TOGETHER FOR TOO LONG.
YOU WANT A RIDE, RIGHT?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE YOU WERE A KID!
.....

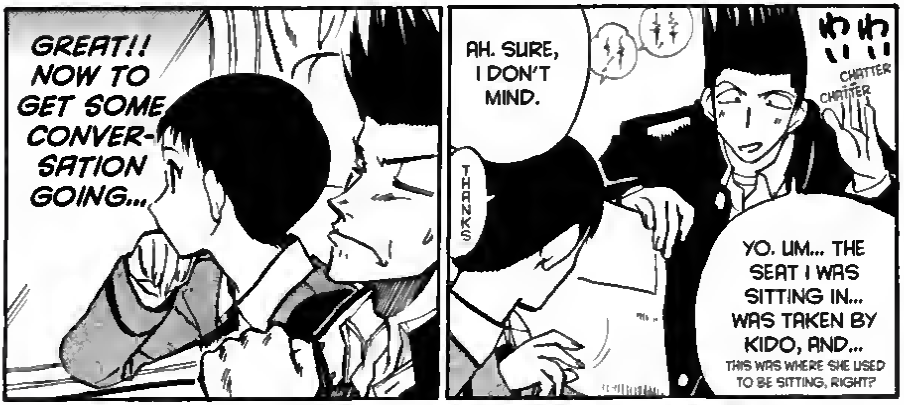
<THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED>
YOU KNOW HOW HANAI WOUND UP THAT WAY, RIGHT?
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, I MAY WANT PAYBACK.
HM...?
SAY, TELL ME...
WHA-?
TS-TSUKA-MOTO?!
NOOO!!
SAMUEL COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING WRONG!!
YOU C-CAN S-SLAP ME.
AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I TELL YOU NOW...
I-I UNDER-STAND.
<WHA-?>
<A GIANT CREATURE BEING TRANSPORTED FROM JAPAN IS CUR-RENTLY WITHIN THE AIRPORT'S AIR-SPACE>
<WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCE-MENT!>
CHATTER! CHATTER
VENT
<HARRY MCKENZIE?>
A-ACTU-ALLY, AT THAT TIME...

ゴォオオォ
GRRRMM
WE'RE FORCED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING!!
THE ANESTHESIA HAS COMPLETELY WORN OFF, AND THE RESTRAINTS CAN'T HOLD HIM!
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
GRAAW!!
WHA—?!
IT'S YOU...?!
OH, MY GOD, NO!!
IT'S GOTTEN INTO THE TERMINAL BUILDING!!
キィーン
KEEEEEEN
THWIP

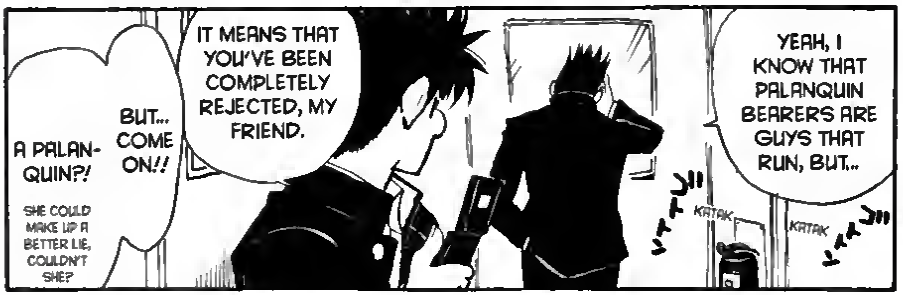
I NEED AT LEAST ONE FOR THE YEARBOOK.
BESIDES, MY PRIDE AS A CAMERAMAN DEMANDS IT.
THE ONLY ONE I HAVEN'T TAKEN A PICTURE OF SO FAR IS TAKANO.
KACHIK
SHUM
THERE SHE IS!!
SHUM
SHUM
SLUMP
FTT

<FROM A WINDOW SEAT IN JAPAN>




GREAT!! NOW TO GET SOME CONVER-SATION GOING...
AH. SURE, I DON'T MIND.
THANKS
CHATTER CHATTER
YO. UM... THE SEAT I WAS SITTING IN... WAS TAKEN BY KIDO, AND...
THIS WAS WHERE SHE USED TO BE SITTING, RIGHT?

EH...?!
AH... PALAN-QUIN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A PALANQUIN CAN RUN THAT FAST!
OKINU... I MEAN, KINUGAWA, WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE?
YOU'RE A PART OF THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB, RIGHT?


A PALAN-QUIN?!
SHE COULD MAKE UP A BETTER LIE, COULDN'T SHE?
BUT... COME ON!!
IT MEANS THAT YOU'VE BEEN COMPLETELY REJECTED, MY FRIEND.
YEAH, I KNOW THAT PALANQUIN BEARERS ARE GUYS THAT RUN, BUT...
KATAK
KATAK

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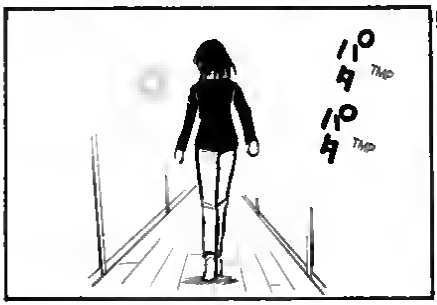
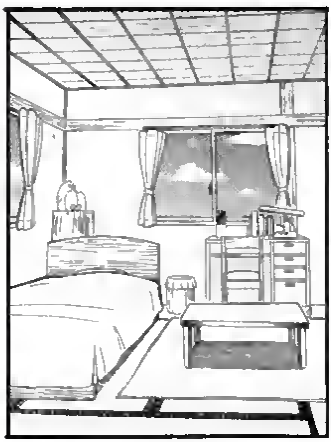
Thus Ends the School Rumble Kyoto Edition.

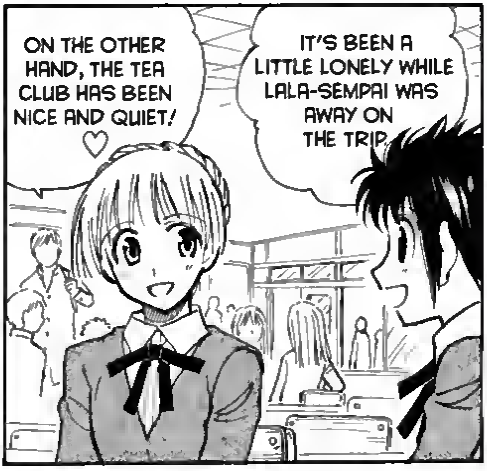


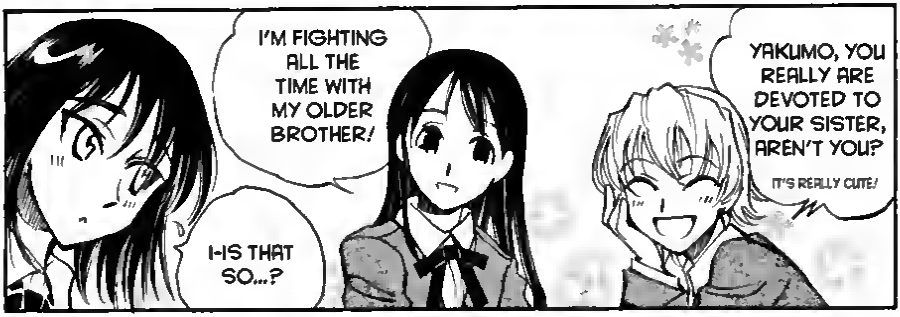


#187 | O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

I'M SO JEALOUS! I WONDER HOW KYOTO WAS?
SO THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS ARE COMING BACK TODAY.

YAKUMO, YOU'RE PREPARING A BIG MEAL FOR WHEN TSUKAMOTO-SEMPAI GETS BACK, HUH?
YES... I FIGURE SHE'D BE TIRED AFTER THE LONG TRIP.


ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TEA CLUB HAS BEEN NICE AND QUIET!
IT'S BEEN A LITTLE LONELY WHILE LALA-SEMPAI WAS AWAY ON THE TRIP.


I'M FIGHTING ALL THE TIME WITH MY OLDER BROTHER!
I-IS THAT SO...?
YAKUMO, YOU REALLY ARE DEVOTED TO YOUR SISTER, AREN'T YOU?
IT'S REALLY CUTE!

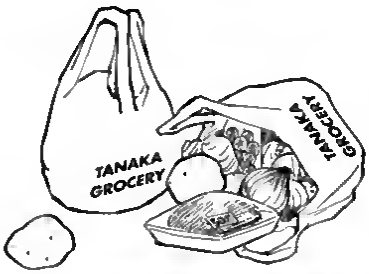
TANAKA GROCERY

EH...? O-OKAY, I DON'T MIND.
HEY, YAKUMO! CAN WE COME OVER AND EAT, TOO?
SCORE!!
I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE KITCHEN!

I'LL MAKE ONE OF NEE-SAN'S FAVORITES TODAY..
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
IT'S SO FUN SHOPPING ALL TOGETHER! I HAVE THE FEELING WE'RE GOING TO BUY A LOT OF FOOD!
EH...?
WOW! IF WE DO THAT, THEN I'LL BAKE A SHEPHERD'S PIE!
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY TO DO A POT LUCK?
EH...? BUT WITH THAT MUCH FOOD...
SINCE IT'S JUST US GIRLS, THERE'S NO PRESSURE!
WE CAN GET A PROPER CRITIQUE OF OUR WORK!
JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I MADE MEATLOAF!
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANYBODY TO SERVE IT TO!
YAAY
YAAY
THEN IT'S ALL DECIDED! EVERY-ONE WILL COOK SOMETHING OF THEIR OWN!
WHAT'S THIS? LET'S MIX AND MATCH! I CAN COOK, TOO!

WOW! A REAL JAPANESE-STYLE HOUSE!!
I LIKE IT!! IT'S SO YOU, YAKUMO!
YOU THINK SO...? WELL, JUST PUT THE BAGS ANYWHERE.

DO YOU ALL WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
DON'T BOTHER YOURSELF WITH US!
WE'RE HERE TO HELP *YOU*, YAKUMO!

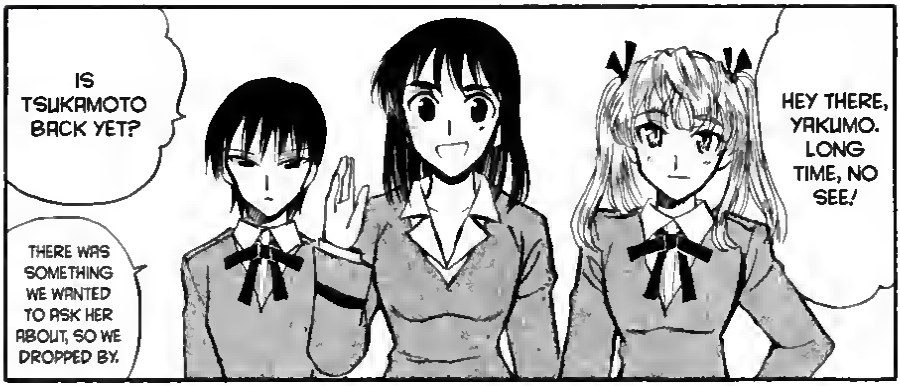

TANAKA GROCERY
TANAKA GROCERY

AH...
OKAY.

SO JUST ORDER US AROUND!
WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT WE'VE GOT!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!

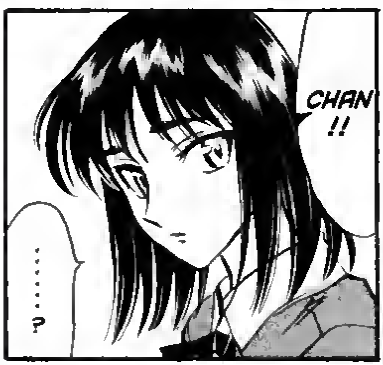
By the Way, Sarah Has Been Staying Over (See Chapter ♭ 39).

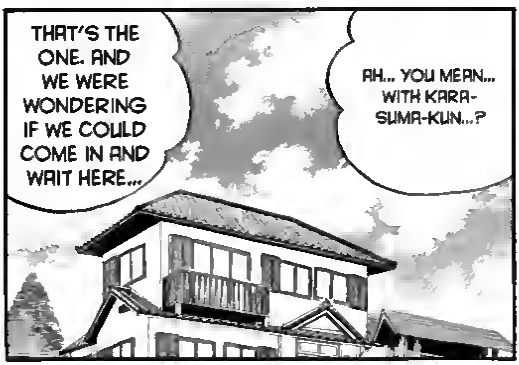
COME TO THINK OF IT... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER INVITED A GROUP OF FRIENDS OVER ALL AT ONCE.
KYAA!!
IS THIS IORI?!
IT'S THE CUTEST THING!!
BA-KAMM
HSSSS!!
AND IT'S FINISHED. THIS IS WHAT I ALWAYS MAKE.
OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, ANYWAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S AMAZING!!
YAKUMO, MARRY ME!!
BZZT!! I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN FOR YAKUMO!
S-SARAH...
DING DONG
?

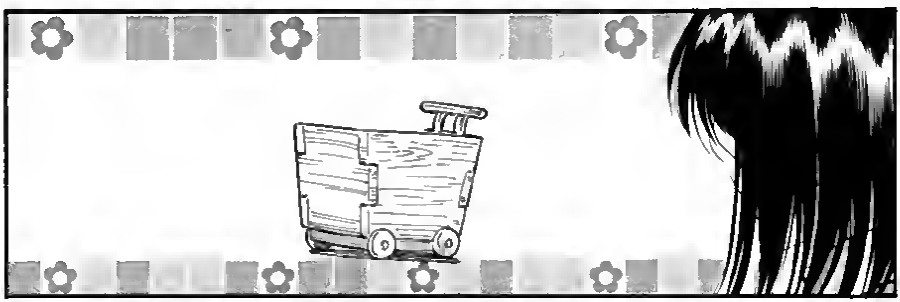

IS TSUKAMOTO BACK YET?
THERE WAS SOMETHING WE WANTED TO ASK HER ABOUT, SO WE DROPPED BY.
HEY THERE, YAKUMO. LONG TIME, NO SEE!

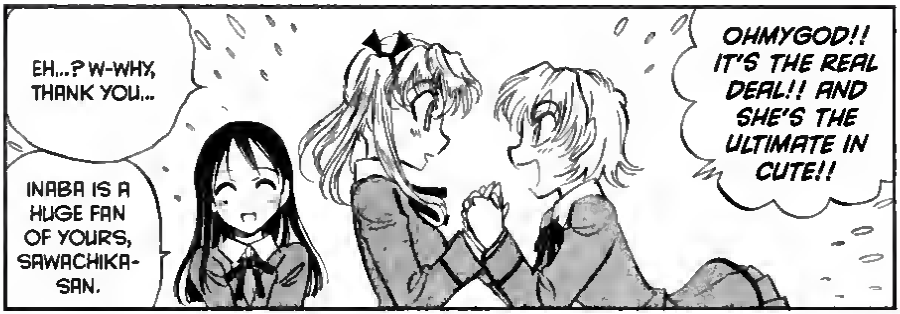
NAW! WE WERE JUST WONDERING HOW TSUKAMOTO MADE OUT, THAT'S ALL.

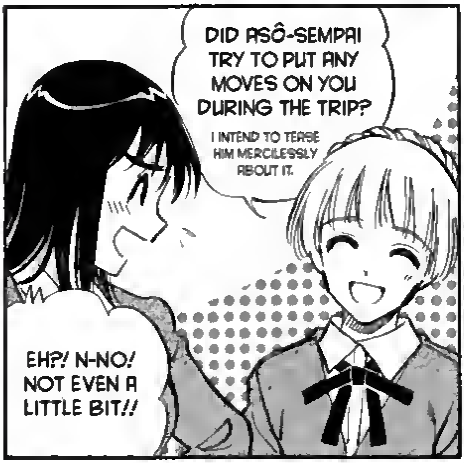
SEMPAI... HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO NEE-SAN?


CHAN!!
.....?

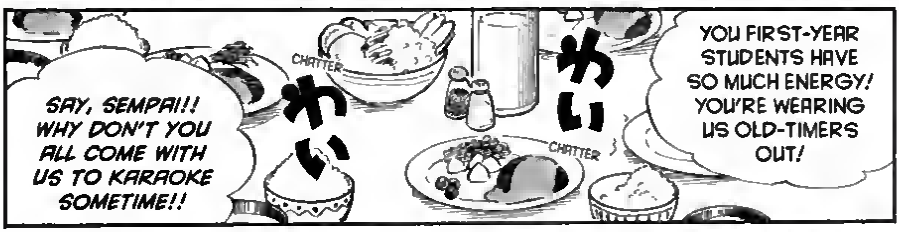

THAT'S THE ONE. AND WE WERE WONDERING IF WE COULD COME IN AND WAIT HERE...
AH... YOU MEAN... WITH KARASUMA-KUN...?

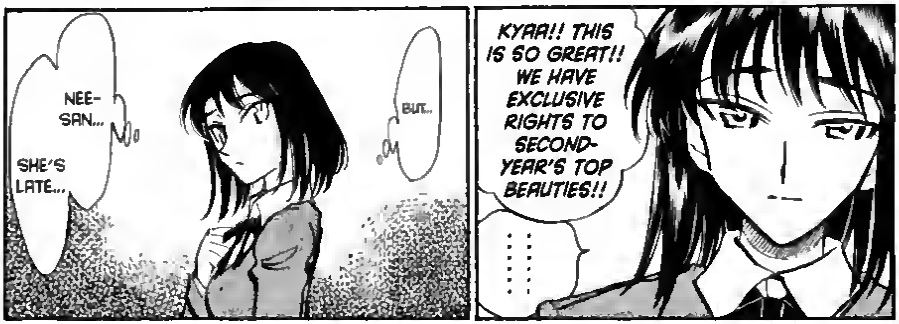



EH...? W-WHY, THANK YOU...
INABA IS A HUGE FAN OF YOURS, SAWACHIKA-SAN.
OHMYGOD!! IT'S THE REAL DEAL!! AND SHE'S THE ULTIMATE IN CUTE!!


DID ASÔ-SEMPAI TRY TO PUT ANY MOVES ON YOU DURING THE TRIP?
I INTEND TO TEASE HIM MERCILESSLY ABOUT IT.
EH?! N-NO! NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT!!

TAKANO-SEMPAI ALSO HAS A CERTAIN GENDER-BENDING POPULARITY.
IS THAT SO? I MUST SAY THAT I AM GRATEFUL FOR ANY VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATES I MAY RECEIVE.


SAY, SEMPAI!! WHY DON'T YOU ALL COME WITH US TO KARAOKE SOMETIME!!
CHATTER
わい
わい
CHATTER
YOU FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY! YOU'RE WEARING US OLD-TIMERS OUT!

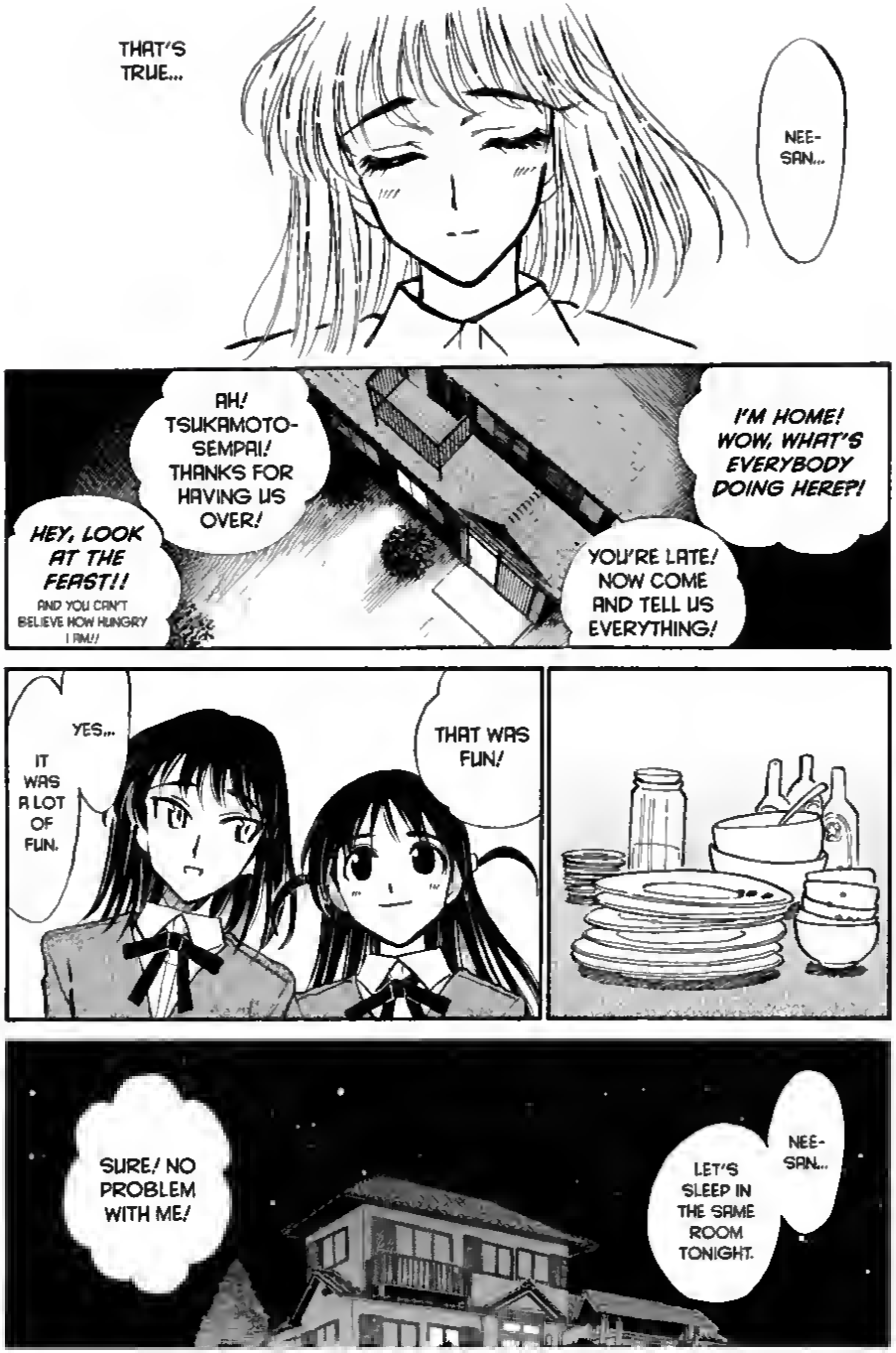

NEE-SAN...
SHE'S LATE...
BUT...
KYAA!! THIS IS SO GREAT!! WE HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO SECOND-YEAR'S TOP BEAUTIES!!

I'M GOING OUT...
...TO GET SOME DRINKS AND THINGS...
YOU THINK WE BUY THAT? YOU'RE GOING TO MEET YOUR SISTER, RIGHT? YOU REALLY SHOULD BREAK THE APRON STRINGS!
YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT! ♡
SHE'S GOT YOU PEGGED!
BREAK THE APRON STRINGS, HUH?
AH...

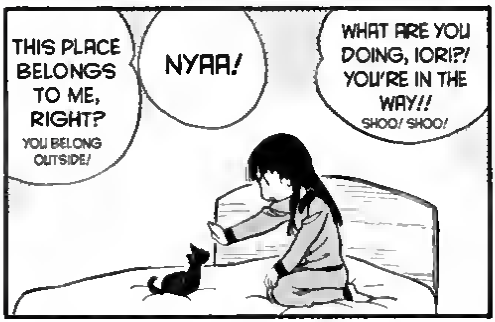
I HAVE TO...
...DO MY SHOP-PING...
.....
TANAKA GROCERY
MAYBE I DO DEPEND TOO MUCH ON NEE-SAN...
.....
SALE

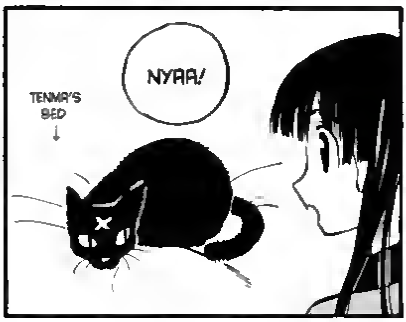
It Really Was Only One Week.

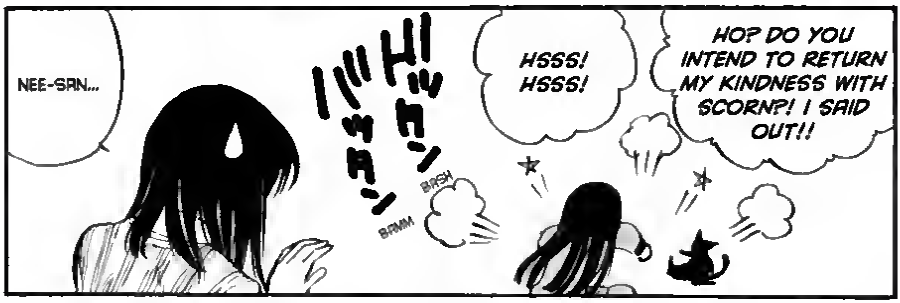
EH.....?
YAKUMO, DID YOU MISS ME WHILE I WAS GONE?!
N–
NO, I CAN'T SAY THAT I DID...
.....
YAKUMO...
THAT'S 'CAUSE I'M THE BIG SISTER, AFTER ALL!
WHEN I ASK THAT...
...I WANT YOU TO SAY THAT YOU MISSED ME!

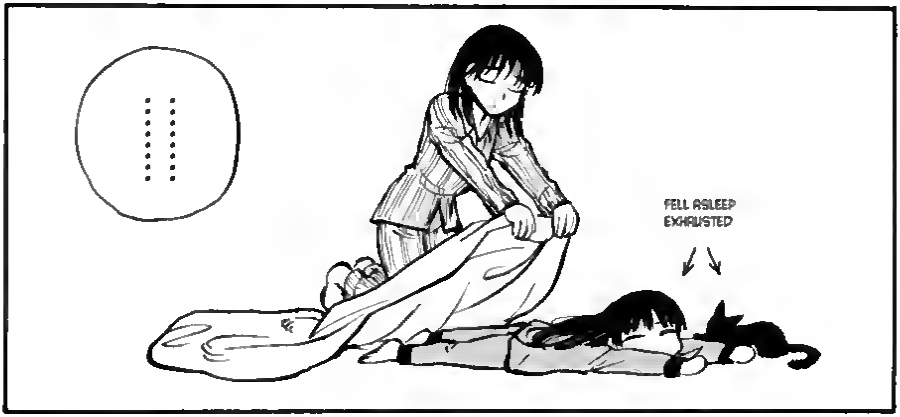

NEE-SAN...
THAT'S TRUE...
I'M HOME! WOW, WHAT'S EVERYBODY DOING HERE?!
YOU'RE LATE! NOW COME AND TELL US EVERYTHING!
AH! TSUKAMOTO-SEMPAI! THANKS FOR HAVING US OVER!
HEY, LOOK AT THE FEAST!!
AND YOU CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HUNGRY I AM!!
THAT WAS FUN!
YES... IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
NEE-SAN...
LET'S SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM TONIGHT.
SURE! NO PROBLEM WITH ME!

<THE TSUKAMOTO HOUSEHOLD LATER THAT NIGHT.>









Or Rather, Two and a Cat.

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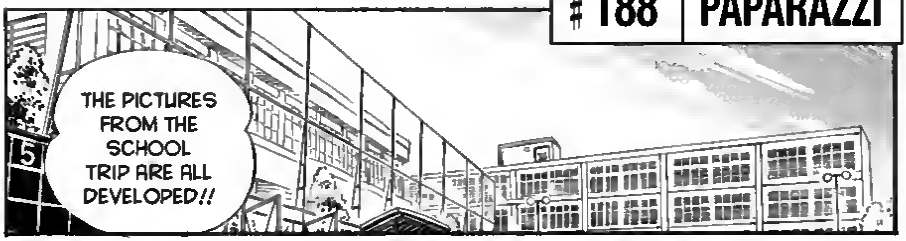
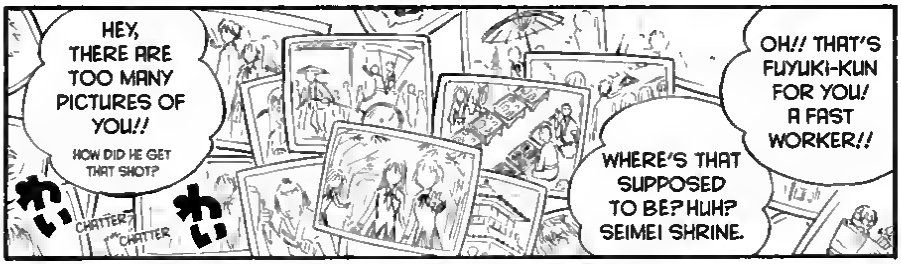
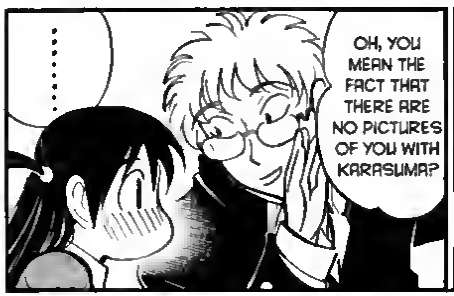
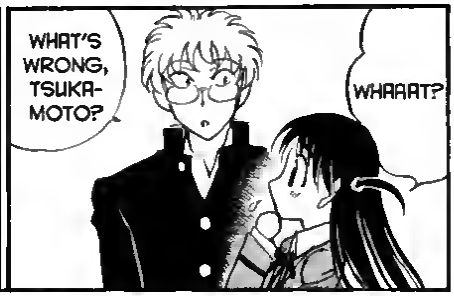
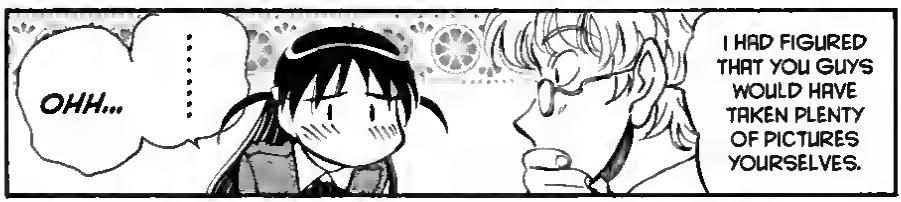
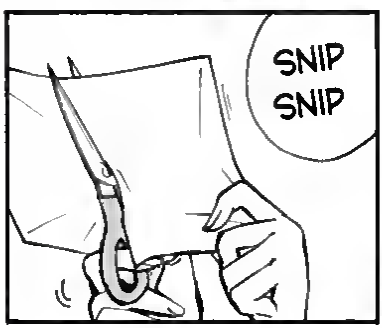

THE PICTURES FROM THE SCHOOL TRIP ARE ALL DEVELOPED!!


HEY, THERE ARE TOO MANY PICTURES OF YOU!!
HOW DID HE GET THAT SHOT?
わい
CHATTER
CHATTER
わい
WHERE'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE? HUH? SEIMEI SHRINE.
OH!! THAT'S FUYUKI-KUN FOR YOU! A FAST WORKER!!


OH, YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NO PICTURES OF YOU WITH KARASUMA?


WHAT'S WRONG, TSUKAMOTO?
WHAAAT?


OHH...
I HAD FIGURED THAT YOU GUYS WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLENTY OF PICTURES YOURSELVES.


SNIP SNIP

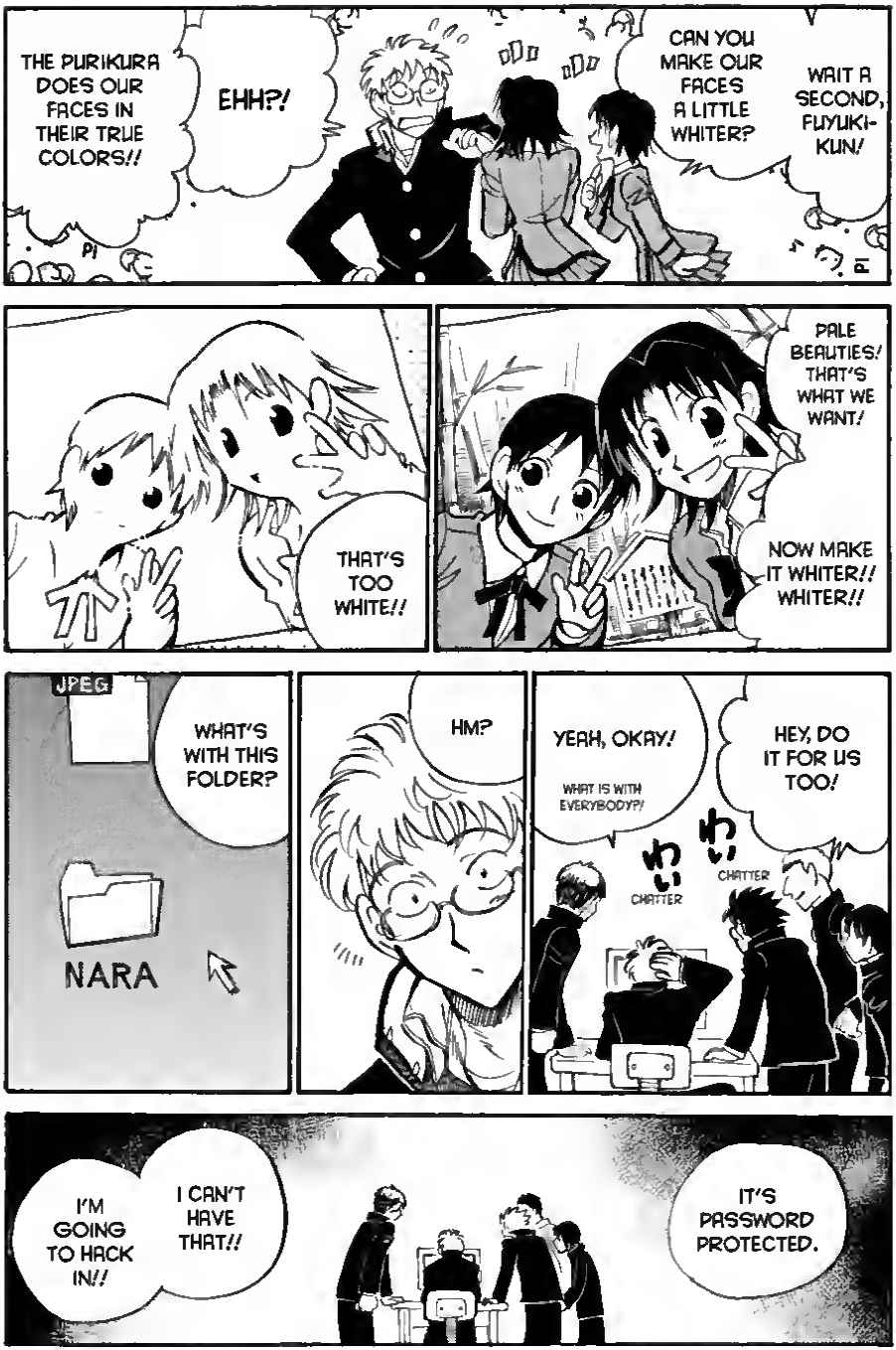
REALLY?! MIKO-CHAN!!
NEVER FEAR!
I THINK I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!

HERE!
I WONDER IF SOMETHING NICE HAPPENED TO THEM?
THOSE TWO HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY TODAY.
I ASKED FUYUKI TO DOCTOR THIS ONE UP!
LOOK!
WHAT IS IT?
HEY, LOOK AT THIS!!
HUH?
WOW!!
IS THIS REALLY KARERIN?!
TA-DAHH!
S-SAGANO!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I THINK "AMPLE" IS THE ONLY WORD FOR IT!!
THAT'S ONE HUGE SET OF TWIN PEAKS!

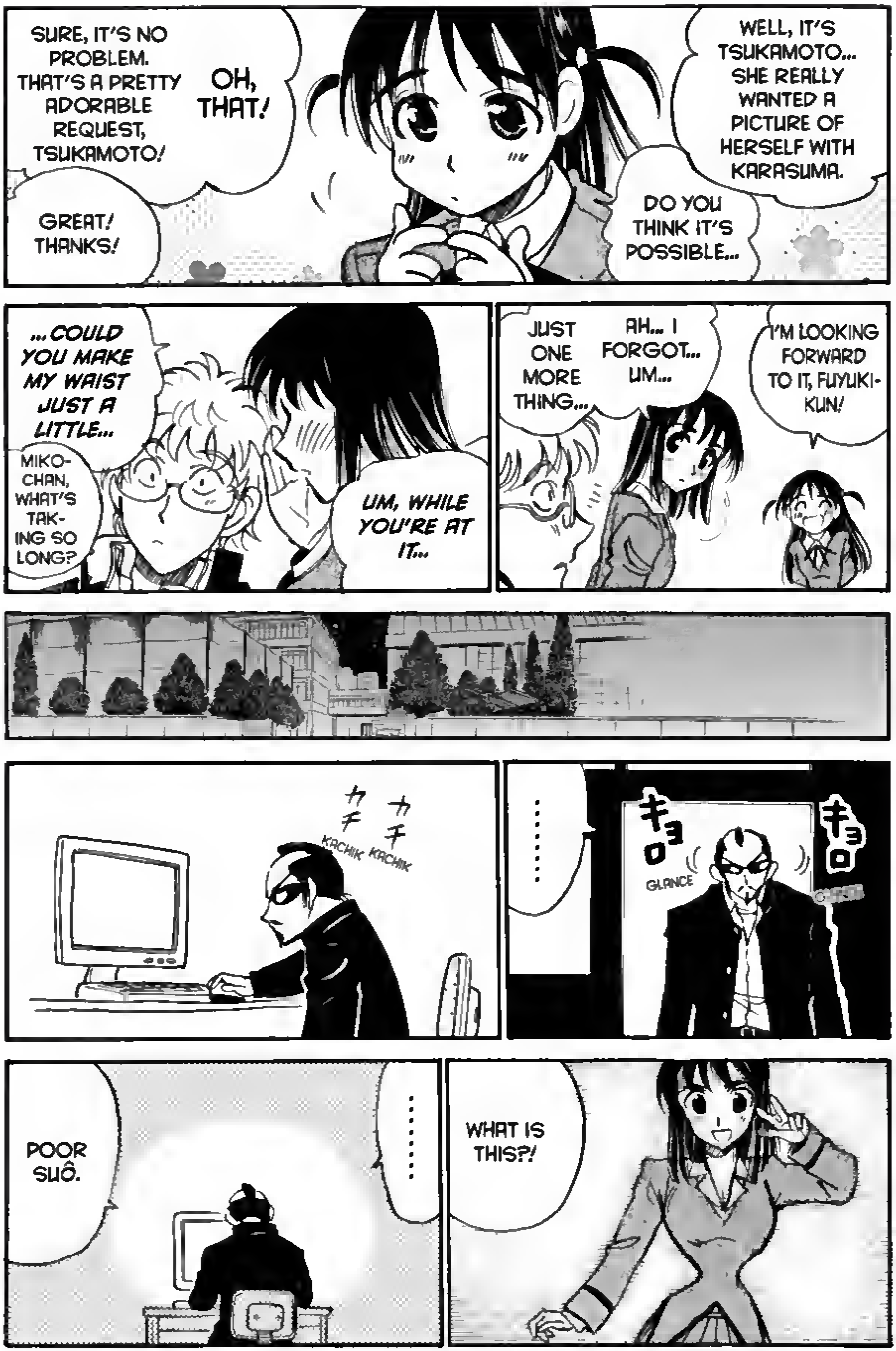
Starring: Tsukamoto Tenma, Director: Suô Mikoto.

THAT IS KARERIN IN THE FUTURE!
OOHHH!!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
IMADORI, LOOK AT THIS!!
DON'T MAKE THOSE WEIRD EYES AT ME!!
COME ON!!
NOOO!!
GLEEEM
EH...?
MAYBE IF I ASKED FUYUKI-KUN, HE'D MAKE UP A TWO-SHOT OF ME WITH KARASUMA-KUN!
HM...
THAT'S IT!!
PHOTO CLUB
HEY! ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?!
YAAAY
OKAY! I'M GOING TO ASK HIM!!

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU AND ME BETTER DISCUSS!!
FUYUKI, YOU CREEP!!
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ONLY HUNG AROUND WITH GUYS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TRIP...
DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ME OR SOMETHING?!
WHAT'S THE DEAL?! ALL THE PICTURES OF ME HAVE ME SURROUNDED BY GUYS!!
YOU JERK!!
AH! I GET IT NOW.
WAKE UP AND SEE WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SEE!!
"SHOULD HAVE"?
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAVING A GREAT TIME WITH THE SLIGHTLY OLDER BEAUTY, SAGANO MEGURI!!!
YOU ARE SO WRONG!!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN! MAYBE HE'LL DO IT FOR US, TOO!
EH? YOU CAN DO THINGS LIKE THAT?
OH, YES!!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT IT THAT WAY, SUGAR?
YEAH!! THIS WILL BE MY MEMORY!!
YAY!
わーい!
TAH-DAH!


THE PURIKURA DOES OUR FACES IN THEIR TRUE COLORS!!
EHH?!
PI
CAN YOU MAKE OUR FACES A LITTLE WHITER?
WAIT A SECOND, FUYUKI-KUN!
PI
THAT'S TOO WHITE!!
PALE BEAUTIES! THAT'S WHAT WE WANT!
NOW MAKE IT WHITER!! WHITER!!
JPEG
WHAT'S WITH THIS FOLDER?
NARA
HM?
YEAH, OKAY!
WHAT IS WITH EVERYBODY?!
HEY, DO IT FOR US TOO!
わいわい CHATTER
わいわい CHATTER
I'M GOING TO HACK IN!!
I CAN'T HAVE THAT!!
IT'S PASSWORD PROTECTED.

.....
CON-TOURS A LITTLE...
NOSE A LITTLE MORE AQUILINE...
BROWS A LITTLE THINNER...
KACHIK
KACHIK
KACHIK
I'M AN ALLY OF ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT!
YES, SIRS!
WE WOULD LIKE OUR TRUE APPEARANCES DOCTORED, IF YOU PLEASE, DASU.
YOU DON'T NEED ANY IMPROVE-MENT!
EH? WHAT? YOU WANT TO HAVE SOMETHING DOCTORED TOO, MIKO-CHAN?
UM... FUYUKI, LISTEN...
DON'T CALL ME MIKO-CHAN!
OH! YOU LIKE YOUR HAIR THE WAY IT IS?
PERFECT, DASU.


WELL, IT'S TSUKAMOTO... SHE REALLY WANTED A PICTURE OF HERSELF WITH KARASUMA.
DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE...
OH, THAT!
SURE, IT'S NO PROBLEM. THAT'S A PRETTY ADORABLE REQUEST, TSUKAMOTO!
GREAT! THANKS!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, FUYUKI-KUN!
AH... I FORGOT... UM...
JUST ONE MORE THING...
UM, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT...
...COULD YOU MAKE MY WAIST JUST A LITTLE...
MIKO-CHAN, WHAT'S TAK-ING SO LONG?
KACHIK KACHIK
GLANCE
GLANCE
.....
.....
WHAT IS THIS?!
POOR SUÔ.

KARASUMA, YOU CREEP! TRYING TO CHANGE THE PAST THROUGH PICTURES!!
WELL, I'LL JUST SHOW HIM! I CAN TAKE THIS AND MAKE IT A LOVE PHOTO OF TENMA AND ME!
LET'S SEE... I'LL TRY THIS, AND THAT... HUH?
TSK!
IT'S COMPLETELY FINISHED!
SHUMP
HUH?!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
カチ KACHIK
カチ KACHIK
YES, THE TRUE ME HAS FAR MORE CHISELED FEATURES.
I'VE THOUGHT SO FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

Keep Your Memories Safe.

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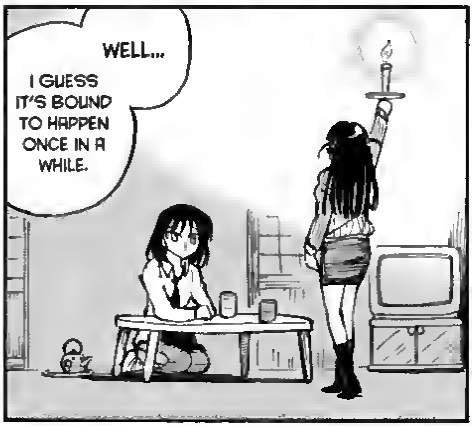
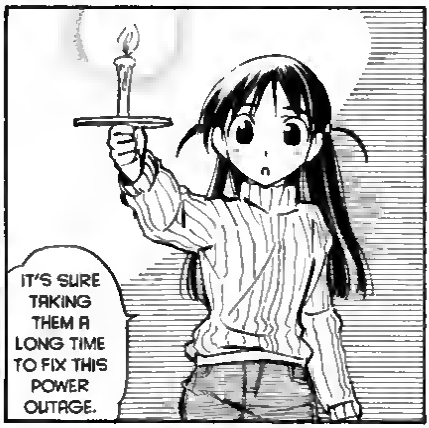
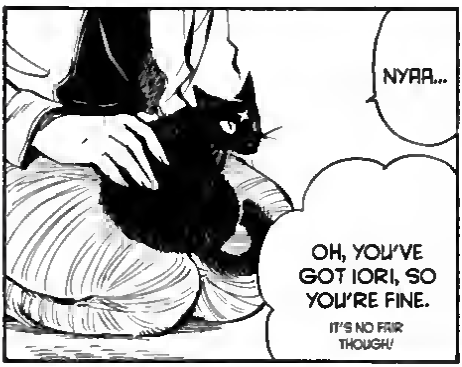
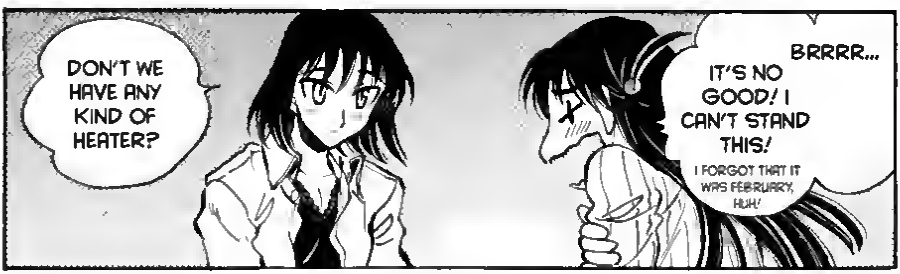
School
Rumble

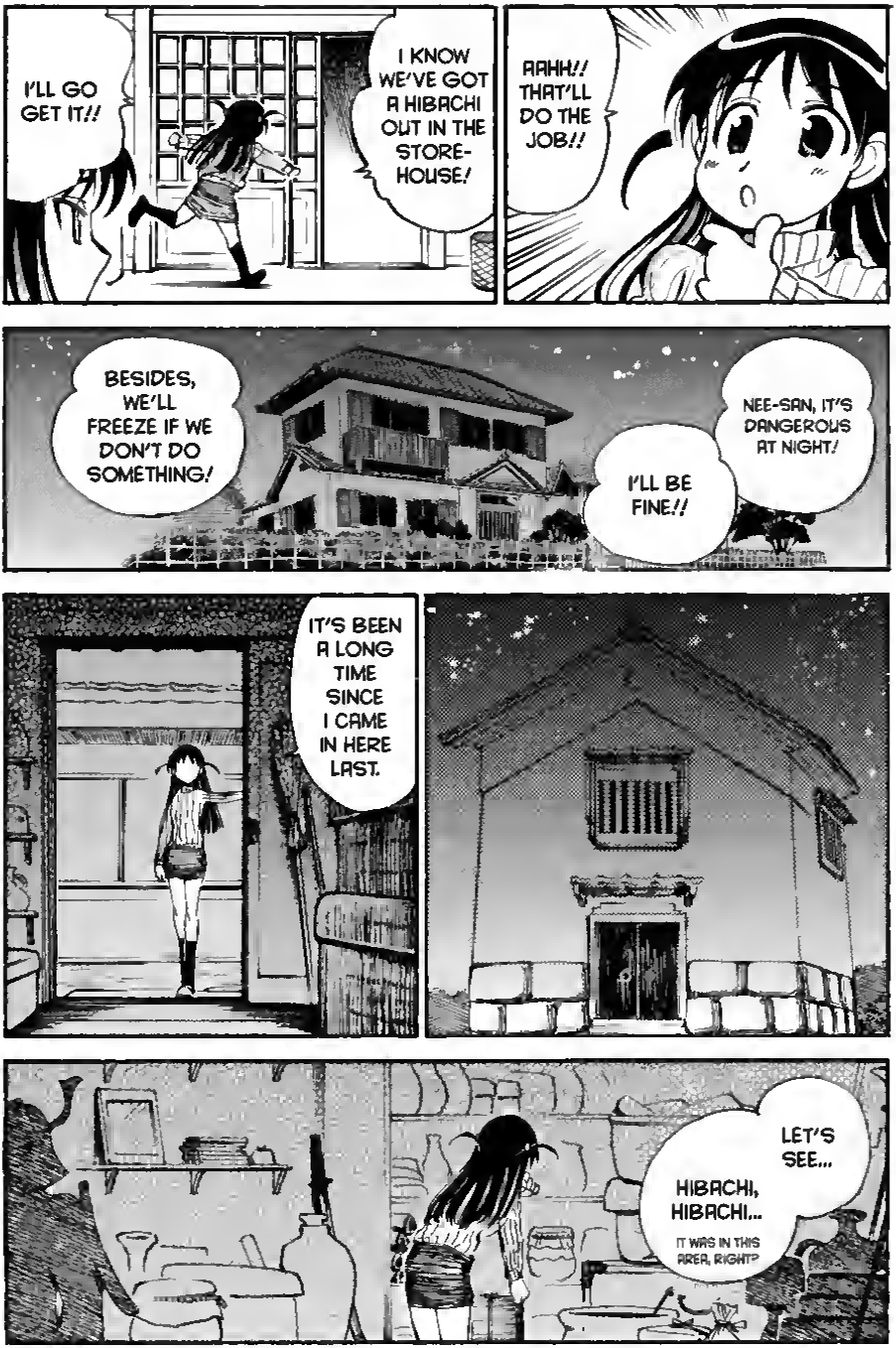


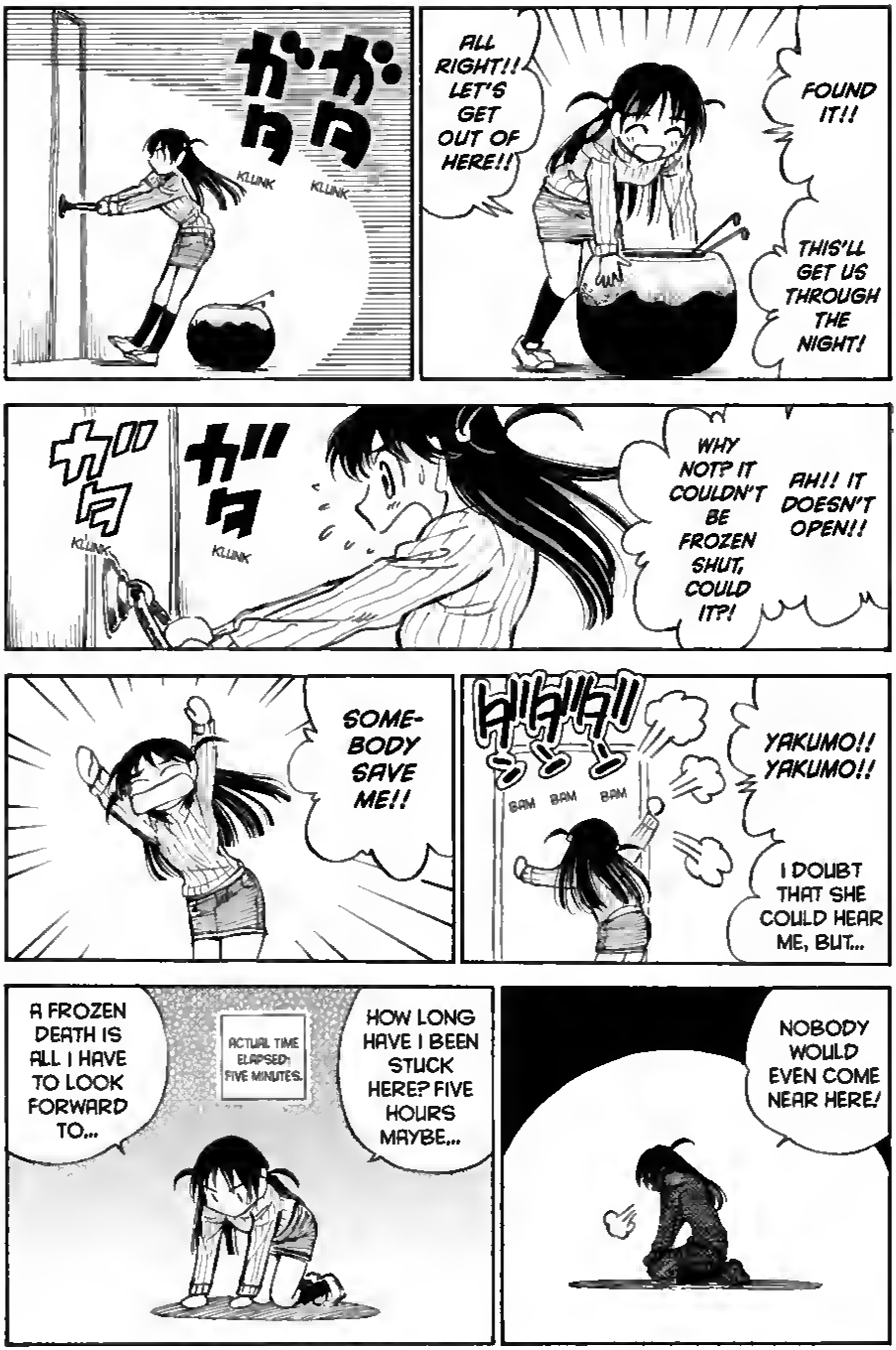






#189 SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE

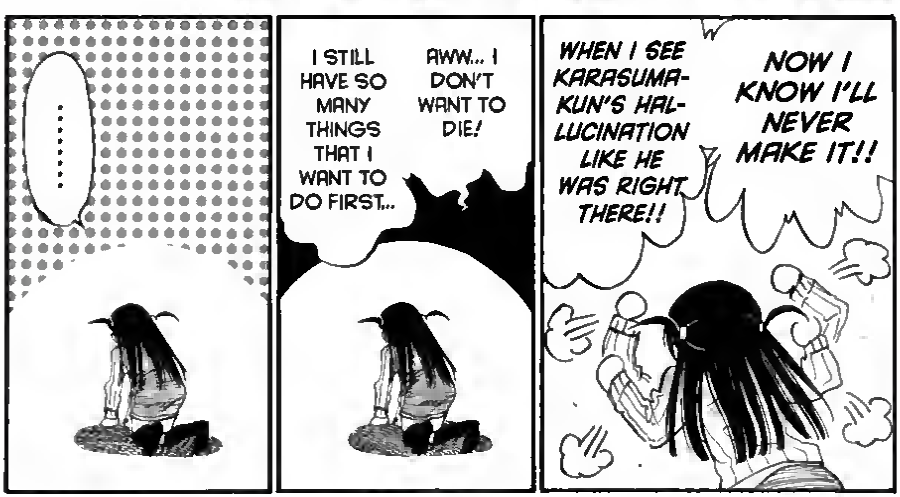

I'LL GO GET IT!!
I KNOW WE'VE GOT A HIBACHI OUT IN THE STORE-HOUSE!
AAHH!! THAT'LL DO THE JOB!!
BESIDES, WE'LL FREEZE IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING!
I'LL BE FINE!!
NEE-SAN, IT'S DANGEROUS AT NIGHT!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I CAME IN HERE LAST.
LET'S SEE...
HIBACHI, HIBACHI...
IT WAS IN THIS AREA, RIGHT?


ガタガタ
KLUNK
KLUNK
ALL RIGHT!! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
FOUND IT!!
THIS'LL GET US THROUGH THE NIGHT!
ガタガタ
KLUNK
ガタ
KLUNK
WHY NOT? IT COULDN'T BE FROZEN SHUT, COULD IT?!
AH!! IT DOESN'T OPEN!!
SOME-BODY SAVE ME!!
ガタガタ!!
BAM BAM BAM
YAKUMO!! YAKUMO!!
I DOUBT THAT SHE COULD HEAR ME, BUT...
A FROZEN DEATH IS ALL I HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO...
ACTUAL TIME ELAPSED: FIVE MINUTES.
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN STUCK HERE? FIVE HOURS MAYBE...
NOBODY WOULD EVEN COME NEAR HERE!

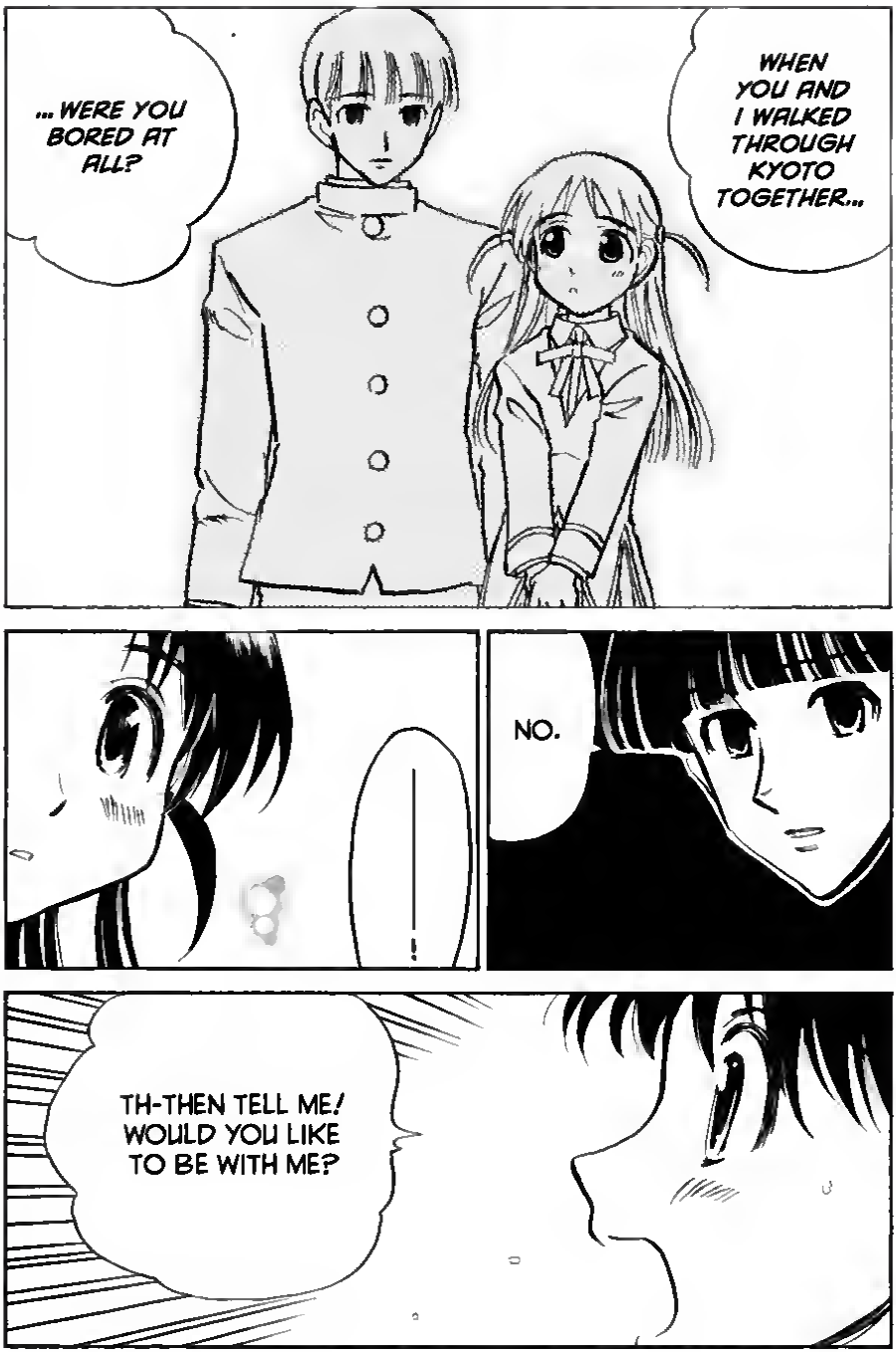
AND RIGHT ON CUE, HERE ARE MY HALLUCINATIONS...
I WANTED TO SEE MY FRIENDS ONE LAST TIME...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE IN HERE ALL ALONE...
THAT ONE IS KARERIN.
AND THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE YAKUMO.
THE HAIR ON THAT MASK LOOKS LIKE MIKO-CHAN...
AND...
THE SINGLE MASK I WANT TO SEE MORE THAN ANY OTHER...
ARE YOU UNWELL, YOUNG MISS?
AH-CHOO!
ERI-CHAN.

GOOD EVENING, TSUKAMOTO-SAN.

GYAAAH!!!


.....
I STILL HAVE SO MANY THINGS THAT I WANT TO DO FIRST...
AWW... I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
WHEN I SEE KARASUMA-KUN'S HALLUCINATION LIKE HE WAS RIGHT THERE!!
NOW I KNOW I'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!

OH, YEAH! SINCE HE'S JUST A HALLUCINATION, I CAN SAY THINGS TO HIM THAT I COULDN'T SAY ANY OTHER TIME! SO IF I'M GOING TO FREEZE TO DEATH ANYWAY, I SHOULD JUST...
KARASUMA-KUN?
WHAT IS IT, TSUKAMOTO-SAN?
.....
.....
UM...
COULD YOU TELL ME...
.....
UH...
WHEN YOU AND I...


... WERE YOU BORED AT ALL?
WHEN YOU AND I WALKED THROUGH KYOTO TOGETHER...
!
NO.
TH-THEN TELL ME! WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE WITH ME?

YES, I WOULD.
YES.
EH?! HE WOULD?! REALLY?! WHAT A GREAT HALLUCINA-TION!!
POFF
WH-WHAT'LL I DO? I KNOW IT'S A HALLUCINATION, BUT I G-GET SO NERVOUS...
ドタ
DOWNJUMP
NEE-SAN/

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW. NEE-SAN, I'M SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO REALIZE.
YAKUMO!!
WAAH!! I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!!
GOGOGONG
.....
THIS HURTS.
PLEASE HELP ME, TSUKAMOTO-SAN!

HE WANTED VERY MUCH FOR TSUKAMOTO TENMA TO HELP HIM, BUT AFTERWARD, HE MANAGED TO FREE HIMSELF.

FOR SOME REASON, KARASUMA ÔJI WAS CAUGHT IN THE WINDOW OF THE TSUKAMOTO STOREHOUSE.

...AND FINISH UP MY FINAL MANGA CHAPTER...
I HAVE TO GO...
I'M SURE YOU WERE VERY FRIGHTENED, NEE-SAN.
THERE, THERE...
I REALLY SAW KARASUMA-KUN!!
YAKUMO!

KARASUMA ÔJI: FORTY DAYS UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE.

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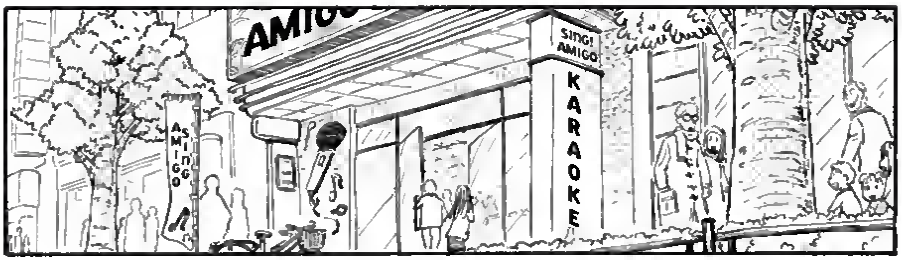
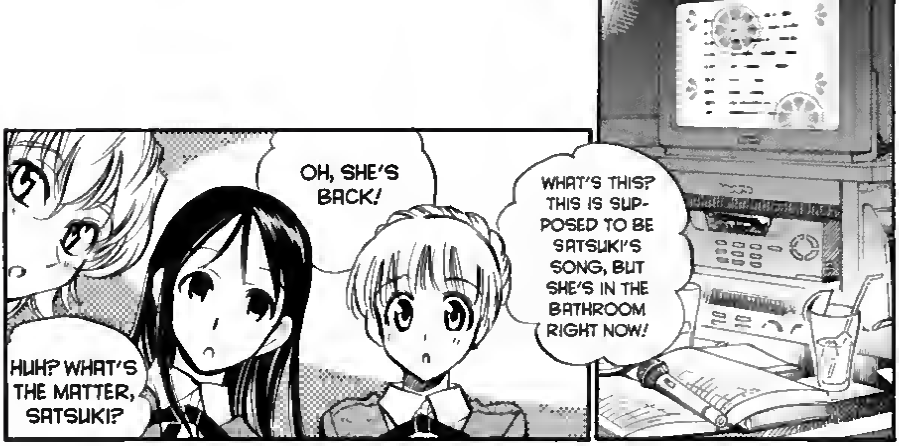


THIS IS OUR FIRST KARAOKE PARTY WITH THE BEAUTIES OF SECOND YEAR!!
NOW WE OFFICIALLY KICK THIS THING OFF! OUR THANKS TO SAWACHIKA-SEMPAI AND THE OTHER SEMPAI FOR COMING!!

#190 THE SOUND OF MUSIC

KYAAA!! I WANT TO EAT!!!
T-TODAY WE WILL CARRY, FIGHT, TREMBLE... A-AND EAT...
I, SATSUKI-CHAN, WILL SING AN AYU SONG!!
WHO'S NEXT?! SATSUKI, YOU GET UP THERE AND SING!!
SARAH, LET'S DO A DUET!
AH! THANK YOU!
THE DRINKS YOU ORDERED...
YOU SEMPAI ARE REALLY GOOD SINGERS! WHY DON'T YOU START A BAND OR SOMETHING?!
KARAOKE CAN BE PRETTY FUN, HUH?
I'M SO JEALOUS! I WANT TO WALK THROUGH IT, TOO!!
JAPAN'S HOME-TOWN!
IT WAS GREAT! IT'S NICE TO GO TO A MORE LAID-BACK PLACE LIKE THAT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.
SEMPAI, TELL US ALL ABOUT KYOTO!! EVERY-THING!

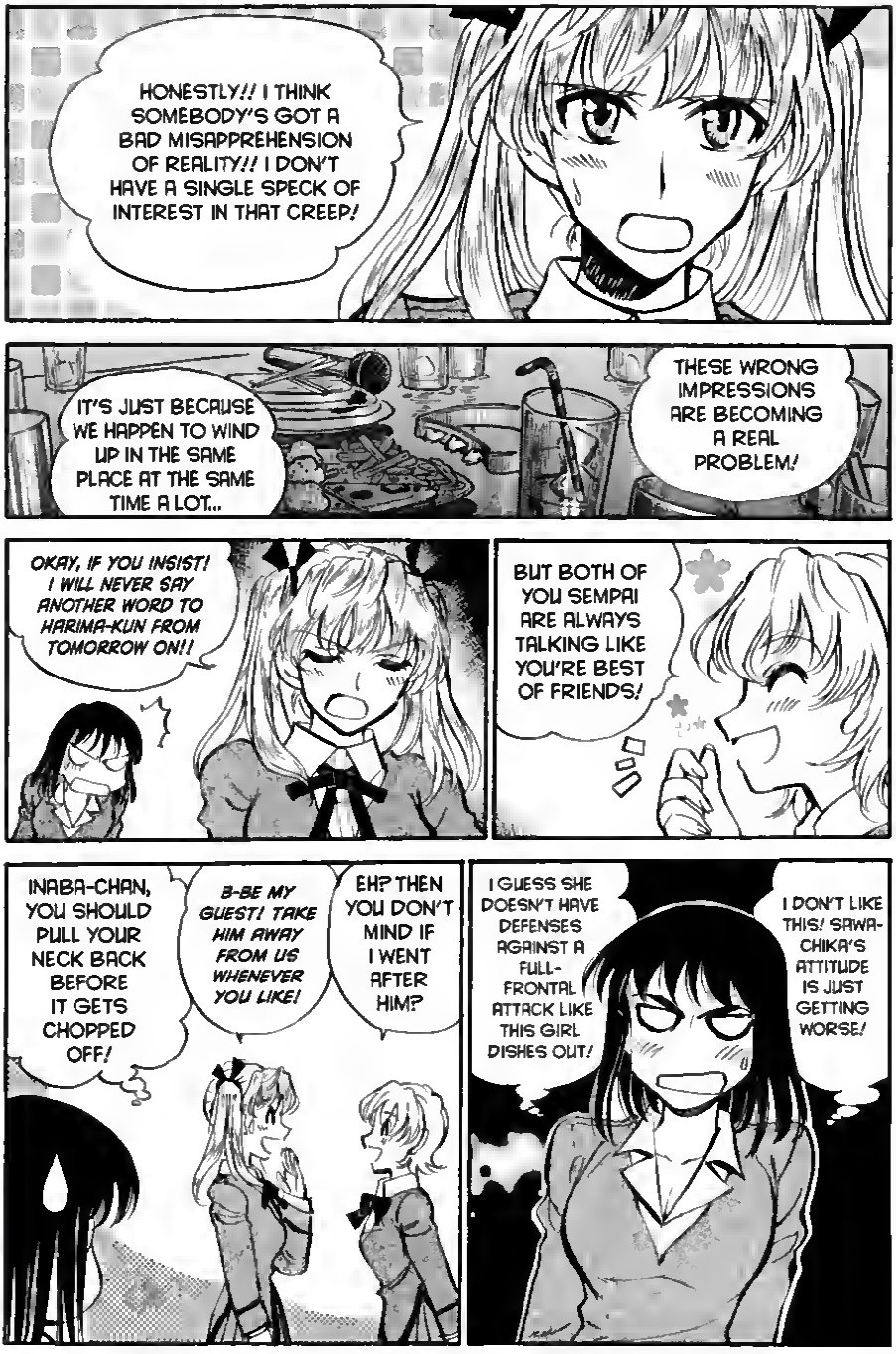

OH, SHE'S BACK!
WHAT'S THIS? THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE SATSUKI'S SONG, BUT SHE'S IN THE BATHROOM RIGHT NOW!
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER, SATSUKI?

THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS, NAGAYAMA-SEMPAI AND TANAKA-SEMPAI, WERE IN THERE ALL ALONE!
I JUST SAW IT OVER THERE IN ROOM 311...
WHAT DID YOU SEE?

REALLY?!
A PRIVATE ROOM JUST FOR TWO?!

THE WAY THEY WERE ACTING ON THE SCHOOL TRIP, I'M POSITIVE THEY'RE AT THE KISSING STAGE!!
THAT'S NAÏVE OF YOU! ALL MEN ARE THE SAME WHERE THAT IS CONCERNED!
THAT'S TANAKA-SEMPAI FROM THE SOCCER CLUB, RIGHT? HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, BUT HE SEEMS SO SERIOUS ALL THE TIME! I HAVE TO ADMIT, HE'S A GENTLEMAN WHERE THE LADIES ARE CONCERNED!
BUT HOW WILL THEIR ROMANCE TURN OUT, SEMPAI? I'M A LITTLE WORRIED!!

B-BOY-FRIEND?! I-I DON'T EVEN HAVE ONE!
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SAWACHIKA-SEMPAI! HOW FAR HAVE YOU GOTTEN WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
AH HA HA! MIKI IS A TRUE FAN!
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE IT?! JUST TELL ALL, OKAY?
HUH?! W-WAIT A MINUTE!! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN! HARIMA-SEMPAI!! ALL OF FIRST-YEAR KNOWS ABOUT THAT!!
.....
WELL, NONE OF US HAVE BOYFRIENDS, BUT WE'D LIKE TO EXPERIENCE THAT, TOO!
YEAH! SHE'D NEVER ADMIT IT, BUT THERE REALLY IS NO DOUBT.
WE ARE WORKING IN THE BACKGROUND TO HELP LOVE GROW!

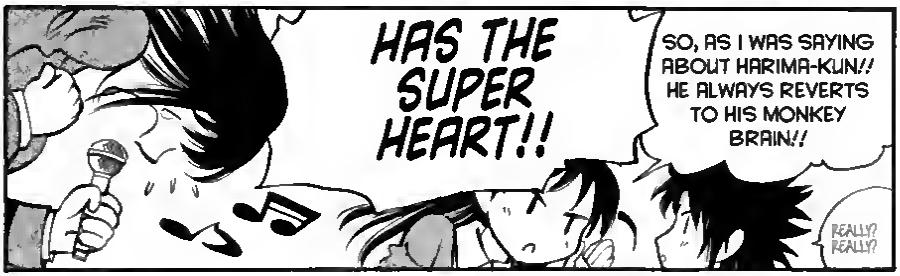

HONESTLY!! I THINK SOMEBODY'S GOT A BAD MISAPPREHENSION OF REALITY!! I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE SPECK OF INTEREST IN THAT CREEP!
IT'S JUST BECAUSE WE HAPPEN TO WIND UP IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME A LOT...
THESE WRONG IMPRESSIONS ARE BECOMING A REAL PROBLEM!
OKAY, IF YOU INSIST! I WILL NEVER SAY ANOTHER WORD TO HARIMA-KUN FROM TOMORROW ON!!
BUT BOTH OF YOU SEMPAI ARE ALWAYS TALKING LIKE YOU'RE BEST OF FRIENDS!
INABA-CHAN, YOU SHOULD PULL YOUR NECK BACK BEFORE IT GETS CHOPPED OFF!
B-BE MY GUEST! TAKE HIM AWAY FROM US WHENEVER YOU LIKE!
EH? THEN YOU DON'T MIND IF I WENT AFTER HIM?
I GUESS SHE DOESN'T HAVE DEFENSES AGAINST A FULL-FRONTAL ATTACK LIKE THIS GIRL DISHES OUT!
I DON'T LIKE THIS! SAWA-CHIKA'S ATTITUDE IS JUST GETTING WORSE!

I CAN KEEP EATING IT AND NEVER GET FULL!!
THIS HONEY-TOAST IS REALLY DELICIOUS!
THIS TOPIC IS GETTING OUT OF HAND! IT'S TIME TO CALL IN REINFORCE-MENTS!!
I KNOW HER, SO I CAN SEE HOW ANGRY SHE REALLY IS!
THE LONGER YOU HANG WITH A GIRL THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND HER!
BWAA
MY TYPE OF MAN IS MUCH GENTLER AND MORE KNOWLEDGE-ABLE!
D W H A A P?!
NOW SHOULD WE DISCUSS THAT TIME WHEN YAKUMO AND HARIMA-KUN RODE TO SCHOOL TOGETHER ON HIS MOTOR-CYCLE?
GLEEM
GLEEM
DEEP INTEREST
興味津々
THANK THE GODS! THE TOPIC IS CLOSED AT LAST!
FINE! I GUESS WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
PHEWWW
AND I THINK THIS MAY BE YAKUMO'S WEAK POINT, TOO!!
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO CRITICAL MASS!!!
AH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DO RE-MEMBER SOMETHING OF THE SORT. MAYBE THE TRUTH UNEXPECT-EDLY LIES THERE.
GYAAAH

OH, YAKUMO! I'VE BEEN PRACTICING!! "GOBANGAI NO MARIE"!!
ARE YOU GOING TO SING IT?
ほっ
OH
FLUTTERING IN THE WIND...
PHEW! THANK GOODNESS SHE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR IT!
HMM... SAWACHIKA-SEMPAI IS CUTE AS A BUTTON, BUT SHE'S ALSO SO CALM AND COLLECTED.
FINALLY THE STORM PASSES OVER.
はーっ
SWAAH
YOUR ORDER OF HONEY TOAST, MA'AM.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
キィー
KREEE
しゅっ
SPRITZ
IT'S YOU ALL... WHY...
THANK YOU!! WE DON'T NEED ANYTHING MORE, MR. KARAOKE BOX WAITER!!
ぎらーん
GLARE

WITH HIM OUT THERE, HE'LL HEAR EVERY WORD WE SAY!!
ウロウロ
PACE
PACE
GAAH!! WHAT IS HE DOING WORKING HERE ANYWAY?!
AND HE KEEPS HINGING AROUND THE DOORWAY!!
BUT YOU KNOW, HARIMA-KUN IS REALLY STUPID!!
TWITCH
STOP IT!!
EHHP! THAT'S SO AWFUL!! I HATE ALL PEOPLE LIKE THAT!!
I FEEL SORRY FOR ANY WOMAN WHO IS EVER INVOLVED WITH HIM!!
HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE LICK OF UNDER-STANDING OF HOW A WOMAN FEELS!!
CHATTER CHATTER
がいの がいっ
OUR LOVE'S FUTURE GOES OFF INTO INFINITY...
...STUPID! JUST PLAIN STUPID!
...CAN FORGIVE ANYONE LIKE THAT.
AH!
GRABB
TAKANO, GIVE ME THAT MIKE!!

LISTEN, YOU GUYS...
LEARN TO PICK UP ON HINTS, OKAY?!
THAT'S MY MIKO-CHAN!! WE'VE GOT TO HAVE ASÔ-KUN WITH US NEXT TIME!!
THAT WAS LOVE ON, WASN'T IT?!
WOW!! SUÔ-SEMPAI, YOU'RE JUST LIKE A PRO!! YOU'VE GOT SUCH A GREAT SINGING VOICE!!


HAS THE SUPER HEART!!
SO, AS I WAS SAYING ABOUT HARIMA-KUN!! HE ALWAYS REVERTS TO HIS MONKEY BRAIN!!
REALLY? REALLY?

AH HA HA! YOU JUST LOVE TO SING, DON'T YOU, MIKO-CHAN?!
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
I WANT TO FLY INTO YOUR ARMS!!

S-SO AT LEAST YOU FIGURED IT OUT, HUH?
M-MY VOICE...
WELL DONE.
HERE'S SOME HONEY TOAST.

190 · · · · · · · · Fin

SCHOOL RUMBLE★UMA FILE

File005 Little Girl Ghost

LITTLE GIRL HAIR
ITS LENGTH CAN SHORTEN OR LENGTHEN AT WILL. AT THEIR FIRST MEETING, YAKUMO WAS STRANGLED BY THIS HAIR.

LITTLE GIRL EARS
HAS AN EAR FOR THE WAYS OF THE WORLD. ENJOYS TALK ABOUT LOVE, AND GIVES OTHERS VERY BLUNT ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT.

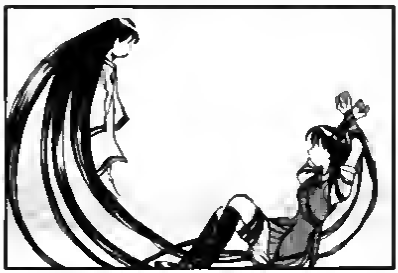
LITTLE GIRL FEET
USUALLY BARE. CAN FLOAT IN THE AIR. WELL, PROBABLY THE REASON SHE CAN FLOAT IS BECAUSE SHE'S A GHOST.

CHARACTERISTICS

- AGE: NO DATA • HEIGHT: NO DATA
- LOVE HISTORY: NO DATA
- AMBITION: TO GROW UP

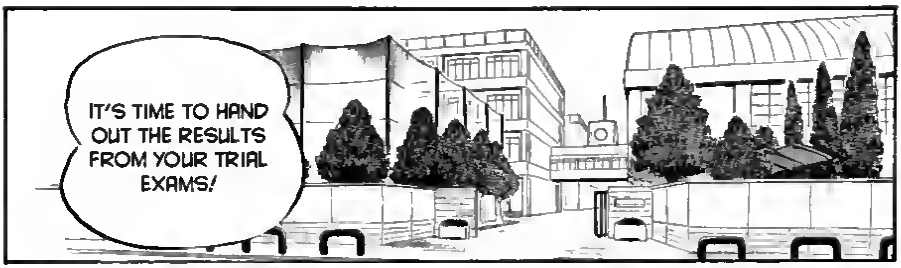
○EXPLANATION

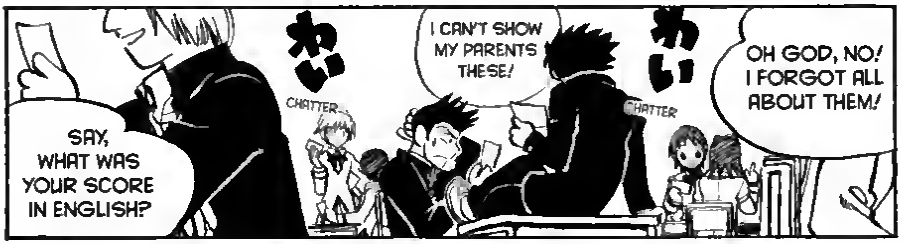
THERE IS A DEARTH OF DETAILS AVAILABLE ON HER, BUT WHILE RESEARCHING THIS PIECE, WE CHANCED TO HEAR AN INTERESTING STORY. SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO IN THE TOWN OF YAGAMI, A YOUNG GIRL DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. DIRECTLY PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT, THE GIRL WAS REPORTED TO HAVE PLAYED IN A FIELD WITH A LITTLE BOY WHO HAD BEEN FRIENDS WITH HER FOR MOST OF HER LIFE. SHE LOVED HIM, AND HE LOVED HER AS WELL. THE BOY GAVE HER A PRESENT AND SAID TO HER, "LET'S GET MARRIED WHEN WE GROW UP!" WITH A WIDE SMILE, THE GIRL PUT OUT HER LITTLE FINGER FOR A PINKY-PROMISE, WHICH THE BOY PROMPTLY AGREED TO. IT IS AN EXPERIENCE WHICH ANY OF US MIGHT HAVE GONE THROUGH. JUST A TRIVIAL CHILDHOOD PROMISE. ON THE WAY HOME FROM THAT MEETING, SHE WAS RUN OVER IN A TRAGIC CAR ACCIDENT. AROUND HER FINGER WAS A RING OF WHITE CLOVERS. THE GIRL'S MATURATION WAS STOPPED AT THAT MOMENT IN TIME, BUT THE BOY CONTINUED TO GROW UP. HE FOUND NEW LOVES AND FORGOT THE PROMISE HE MADE TO THE LITTLE GIRL. WHAT MUST THE LITTLE GIRL HAVE FELT, KNOWING THAT HER EXPERIENCES BEGAN AND ENDED WITH THAT CHILDHOOD EVENT?

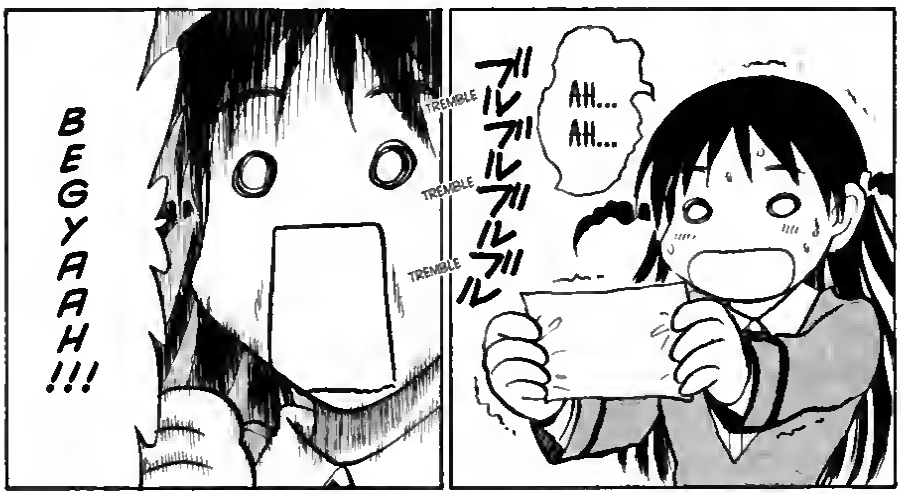


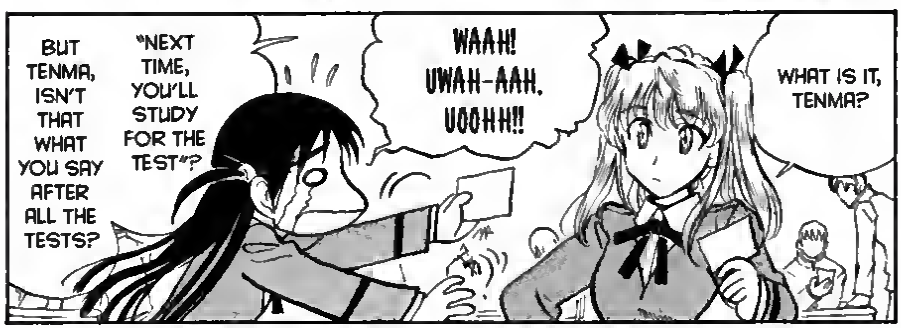
▲ YAKUMO AND THE "LOVESICK" LITTLE GIRL.

IF IT IS THAT LITTLE GIRL WHO IS NOW HAUNTING YAGAMI HIGH SCHOOL, THEN ONE COULD ASSUME THAT SHE IS WANDERING THIS MATERIAL WORLD IN HER GHOSTLY FORM WITHOUT EVER HAVING KNOWN TRUE LOVE.









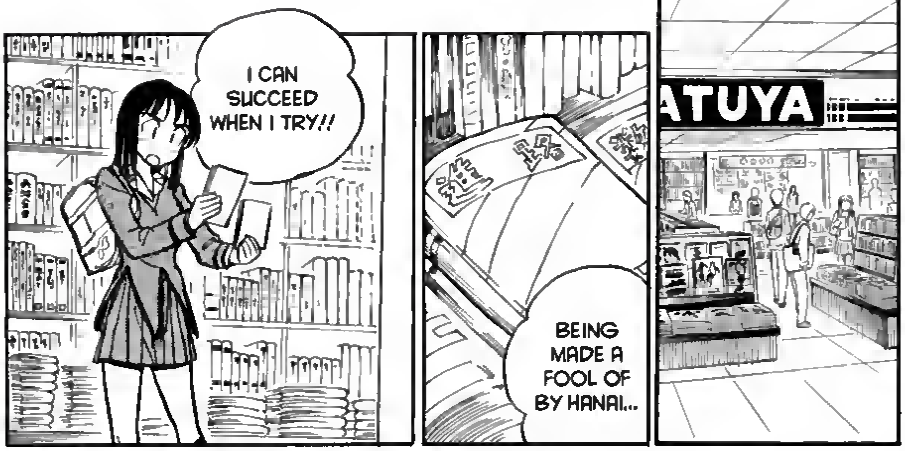
#191 | HARD PROMISES

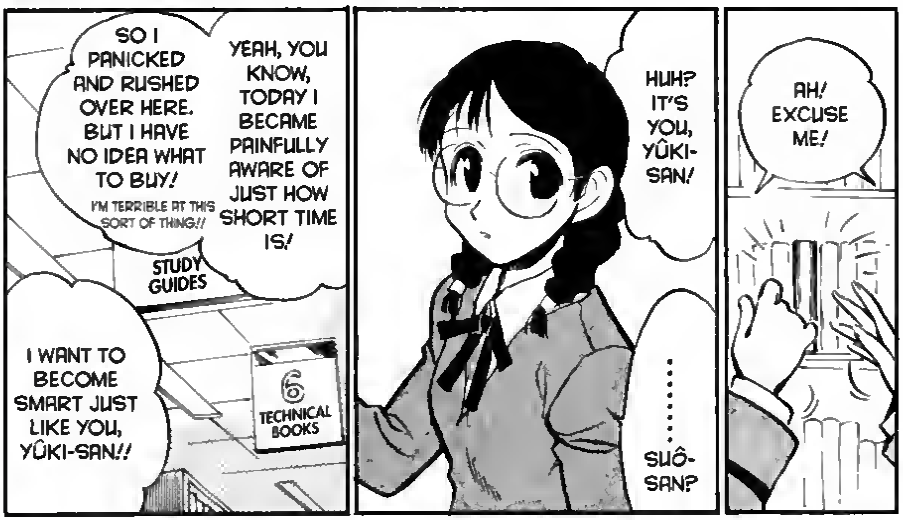
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MIKOTO?
YEAH, YOU KNOW THAT THING THEY ALWAYS SAY...
YOU'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE DWELLING ON THE PAST!!
NOBODY MEASURES THE VALUE OF A PERSON'S WORTH BY THEIR TEST SCORES, DO THEY?
LET'S SEE...
KYAA!! GIVE THAT BACK!!
FLIP
SUÔ, THIS IS BAD. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
AHH!! SHUT UP!! JUST SHUT UP!!

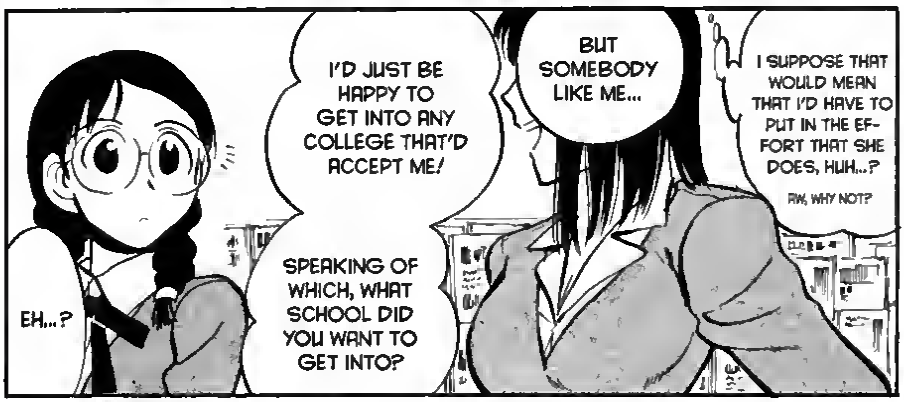
HE GOT THE TOP SCORE OF ALL THE SCHOOL'S SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS!!
THAT'S AMAZING!!
HUH? HEY!!
HANAI-KUN, LET'S SEE IF YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO GIVE ADVICE.
POIT
YAKUMO WOULD BE SO HAPPY FOR US!!
YOU'RE SURE TO BE RICH WHEN YOU GROW UP, RIGHT?
HANAI-KUN!! MARRY ME!!
HEY!! HEY!!
WHOOPS!
GRITCH
GWAA!!
WHIRR
OH, 'SCUSE ME.

FOR PITY'S SAKE! I HAVE THINGS TO DO BEFORE I DEAL WITH ANY TEST SCORES.
WELL, IT WON'T BE TOO LONG UNTIL YOU ARE ALL THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS.
SO I WANT YOU TO WRITE DOWN WHAT COURSE YOU'D LIKE YOUR FUTURE TO TAKE.
HAVE IT DONE BY TOMORROW.
THAT'S INCRED-IBLE!!
GAK!!
EHH?! HANAI-KUN!! YOU'RE PLANNING ON GOING TO TÔDAI?!
DAMMIT!! WELL IF YOU DO GET SOME HIGH AND MIGHTY POSITION, YOU'D BETTER MAKE ME YOUR RIGHT-HAND MAN!!
TELL ME, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO BECOME? A BIG PUBLIC OFFICIAL?!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THESE THINGS, BUT YOU'RE AIMING REALLY HIGH, AREN'T YOU?!
TÔDAI!! THAT'S GOT THE RED GATE, RIGHT?
THAT'S NOT POS-SIBLE!!
OH, DEAR.
YOU'LL BE A MULTI-MILLION-AIRE!! MILLION-AIRE-SAMA!!

BUT... BUT DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU TO TUTOR ME A LITTLE?
YOU SEE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU EXPLAIN THINGS BETTER THAN ANYBODY!!
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THAT!
EEEEHH!!
AWW, COME ON!! WILL YOU ALL JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!
WOW, SAEKO'S ALREADY MADE HER MOVE!
IT'S ABOUT THESE DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS AND INTEGRAL CALCULUS PROBLEMS...
I DON'T GET THEM AT ALL!
HM! IF I MUST, THEN I MUST. LET'S SEE...
YOU'RE FANTASTIC!! YOU MADE THIRD PLACE IN OUR WHOLE YEAR!!
YOU'RE SURE TO GET INTO W-DAI!! THAT'S TOP ON YOUR LIST, RIGHT?
CONGRATULATIONS, YŪKI!!
SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH
KRAKK
I SHOULD BE LIKE YOU!! PUT OFF MY FUN AND START STUDYING!!
WELL, YOU WORK HARD ENOUGH TO GET IN!!
YEAH...

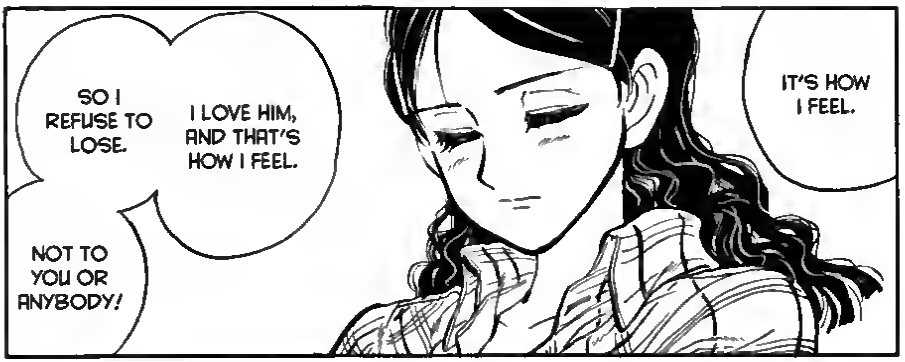

I CAN SUCCEED WHEN I TRY!!
BEING MADE A FOOL OF BY HANAI...
ATUYA


SO I PANICKED AND RUSHED OVER HERE. BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO BUY!
I'M TERRIBLE AT THIS SORT OF THING!!
YEAH, YOU KNOW, TODAY I BECAME PAINFULLY AWARE OF JUST HOW SHORT TIME IS.
STUDY GUIDES
TECHNICAL BOOKS
I WANT TO BECOME SMART JUST LIKE YOU, YÛKI-SAN!!
HUH? IT'S YOU, YÛKI-SAN!
.....
SUÔ-SAN?
AH! EXCUSE ME!

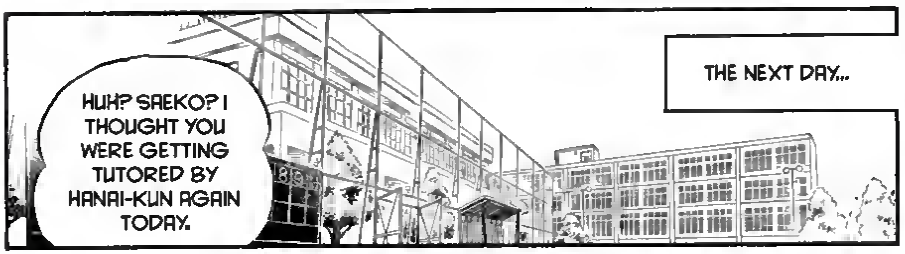

EH...?
I'D JUST BE HAPPY TO GET INTO ANY COLLEGE THAT'D ACCEPT ME!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU WANT TO GET INTO?
BUT SOMEBODY LIKE ME...
I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD MEAN THAT I'D HAVE TO PUT IN THE EFFORT THAT SHE DOES, HUH...?
AW, WHY NOT?

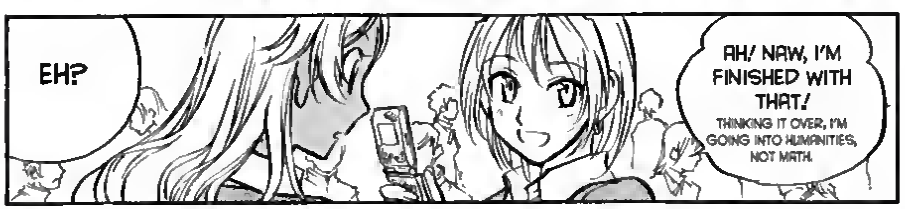
OR LIKE UMEZU, TRYING HIS BEST TO GET INTO THE SAME SCHOOL THAT KIDO IS GOING TO ENTER?
IT TAKES ALL TYPES, HUH?
YOU KNOW! ARE YOU LIKE HANAI, DECIDING YOUR FUTURE AND PICKING THE BEST SCHOOL TO GET IT DONE?
FLIP
FLIP
EH...?
I'M LIKE HIM.
JAPANESE HISTORY
ANCIENT JAPANESE DICTIONARY
I WANT TO STUDY...
...ON THE SAME CAMPUS WHERE THE GUY I LIKE IS STUDYING
DOES THAT MAKE ME WEIRD?
N-NO!! NOT AT ALL!!
LOOK... I MEAN...
I WAS, TOO.
UM...

I WAS EXACTLY THE SAME WAY!
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
I GUESS THAT'S THE WAY WE GIRLS ARE.
First Choice of College
Tokyo University
Second Choice of College
.....
I KNOW THAT... I CAN'T COMPETE WITH YOU, SUŌ-SAN, BUT... BUT...
HMM... I WENT AND WROTE IT.
I GUESS I HAVE TO PUT EVEN MORE EFFORT INTO IT NOW.



...LOVE HIM. I REALLY...





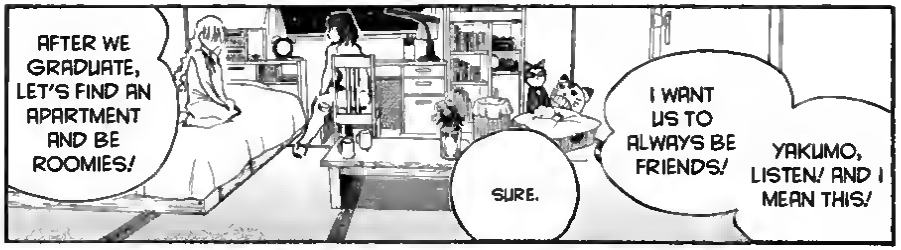
UWAH-AAH, UOOHH!!
ZZZZ
WE DON'T KNOW IF HANAI IS EVEN GOING TO GRADUATE TO THIRD YEAR!! HE MAY HAVE TO TAKE A YEAR OFF!!
EVER SINCE THE NEW YEAR, HE'S BEEN TAKING SO MUCH TIME OFF!!
DID YOU HEAR?
YOU'RE KIDDING!! HE'S GOING TO BE HELD BACK BECAUSE OF TOO MANY ABSENCES?!
THAT'S SO LAME!!

191.....Fin

♭39 IL FUTURO È DONNA

GOOD EVENING!
YAKUMO? I'M COMING IN!
THANKS FOR COMING.
HEY, NO PROBLEM!
...WE'VE EVER HAD A TWO-PERSON SLEEPOVER.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
WOW! YAKUMO'S HAND-COOKED DINNER!!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
SORRY! I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL TO SERVE.
16

THAT WAS GREAT!!
JUST LEAVE THE DISHES THERE. I'LL WASH THEM...
GR!
YOU LET ME TAKE CARE OF THEM! YOU SIT AND RELAX, YAKUMO!
THE LAST TIME I STAYED OVER, TSUKAMOTO-SEMPAI DID THE DISHES, RIGHT?
SO I'M TAKING THE PLACE OF YOUR NEE-SAN TONIGHT!
AH, BUT HOW ABOUT WE DO THEM TOGETHER?
OKAY...



AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE TWO OF US...

WHEN NEE-SAN GRADUATES, I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL DO?

WHEN...I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL...
...I WALKED DOWN A SUBURBAN STREET AROUND SUNSET...
NOBODY WAS AROUND, AND I STOPPED IN THE STREET.
THE SKY WAS BLAZING A BRIGHT ORANGE, AND I JUST STOOD THERE STARING AT THE CLOUDS.
AND THEN A THOUGHT STRUCK ME.
MAYBE TIME WILL STOP FOR ME RIGHT AT THIS INSTANT...
...AND I'LL STAY A LITTLE KID FOREVER.
BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SEEMED SO ADULT TO ME THEN.
LIKE THE LIFE OF SOME-ONE IN A FAR-OFF COUNTRY.
FOR ME, TOO!
BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE ACTUAL ADULTS PRETTY SOON.
YES, THAT'S TRUE...
BUT WE LIVE IN THE "NOW" AS IF IT WERE THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD.

As the Days Pile Up, They Seem Farther Away.

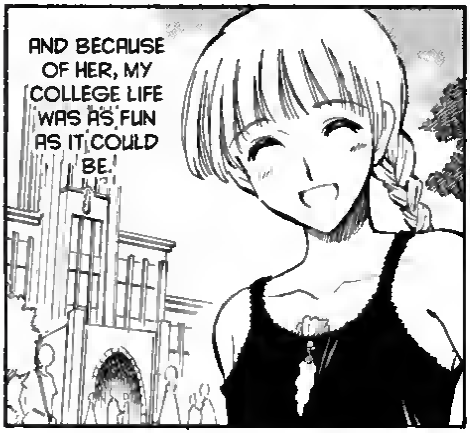
HMM...
I'VE ONLY EVER THOUGHT OF HAVING FUN.
ALSO, STUDYING THE THINGS YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO STUDY.
DOING THE PREP WORK TO GET THE JOB YOU REALLY WANT.
HAV-ING A GOOD TIME!
RIGHT!! GOING OUT AND PARTYING!
I THINK I CAN MORE OR LESS PICTURE IT NOW.
COLLEGE LIFE...
...I STILL CAN'T IMAGINE MYSELF AS AN ADULT.
BUT...
HMM!
I'M HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING WHAT I WANT TO DO FROM ALL THE CHOICES.
MATH
SARAH, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?
WHOO!!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL GROWN UP!!
RIGHT IN THE THICK OF IT!
LIKE...WHO WILL I BE IN TEN YEARS...
TEN YEARS? LIKE WHEN WE'RE TWENTY-FIVE?!
ALSO, A PATISSIER.
AND A POLICE-WOMAN WOULDN'T BE BAD EITHER.
OTHERS ARE A PRIVATE SECRETARY, A DAYCARE PROVIDER...
...A TOUR CONDUC-TOR, A FLIGHT AT-TENDANT...
YOU HAVE SO MANY THINGS YOU WANT TO DO...
A NURSE!
WELL, THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS ANYWAY.

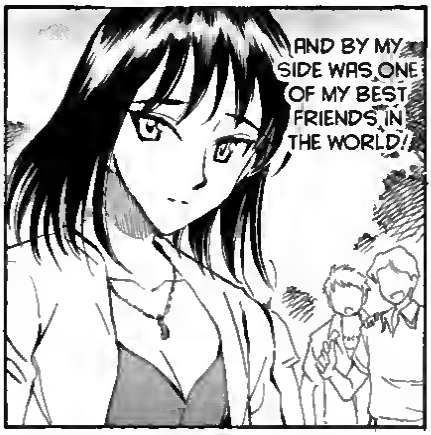
AND THE MATCH-MAKER FOR YOUR WEDDING, YAKUMO!!
SARAH...
SHF
YAKUMO!
NO MATTER WHAT POWER TRIES TO TEAR US APART IN THE FUTURE...
I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME!

IT'S A SOLEMN PROMISE!!
OKAY..
I PROMISE.
...THAT I BECOME GROWN UP LITTLE BY LITTLE.
I THINK THAT THIS IS THE WAY...
URK!! B-BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE THE POWER OF LOVE ON MY SIDE...
BUT SARAH...A MATCHMAKER HAS TO BE MARRIED HERSELF FIRST.

...ABOUT BEING A COLLEGE STUDENT...

THAT NIGHT, I HAD A DREAM...



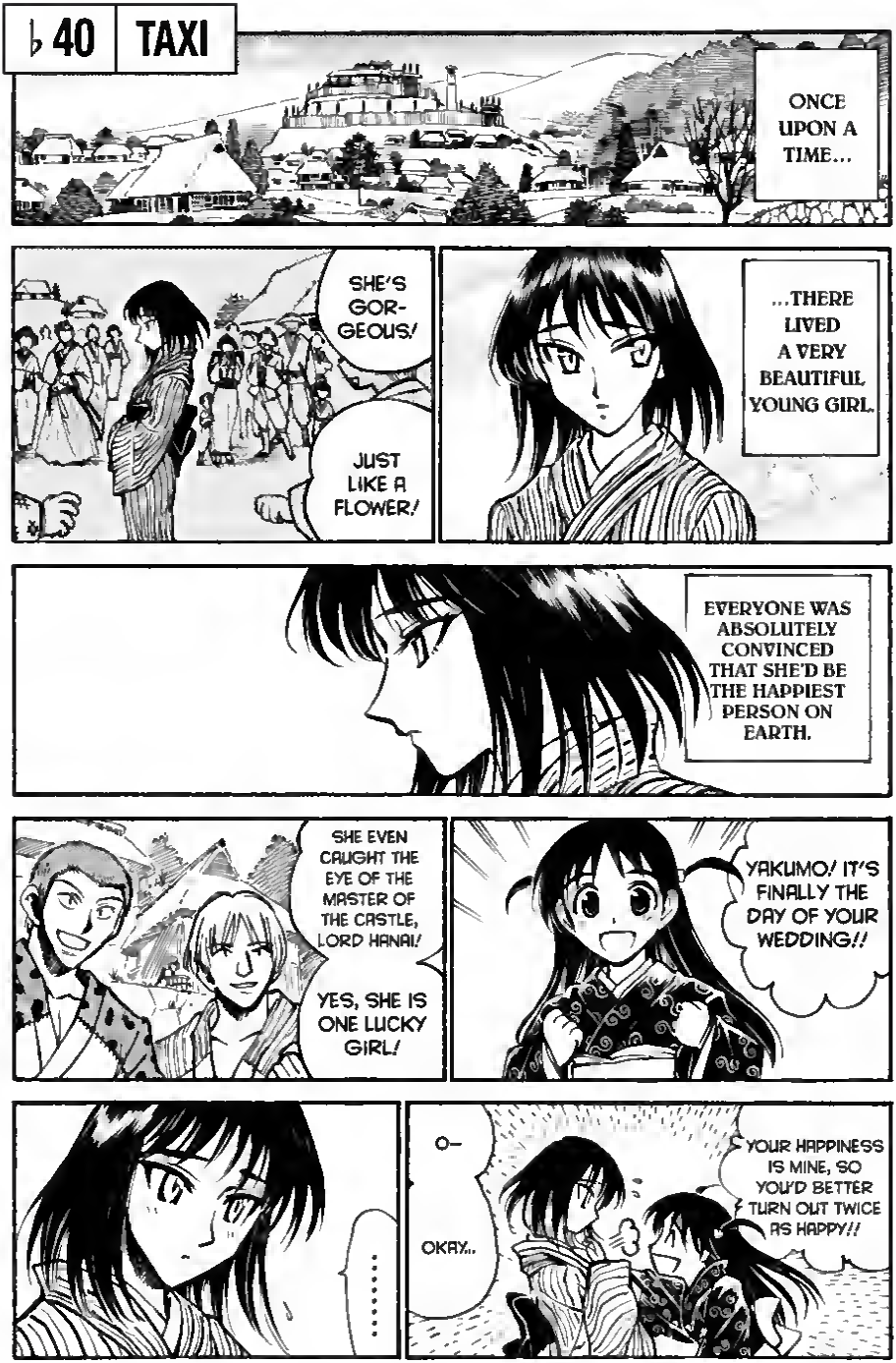


AND WHEN I GOT HOME, NEE-SAN WAS WAITING FOR ME.

IT'S LIKE I WAS LIVING THE WONDERFUL COLLEGE LIFE MY HIGH-SCHOOL-AGED SELF EXPECTED AND HOPED FOR.

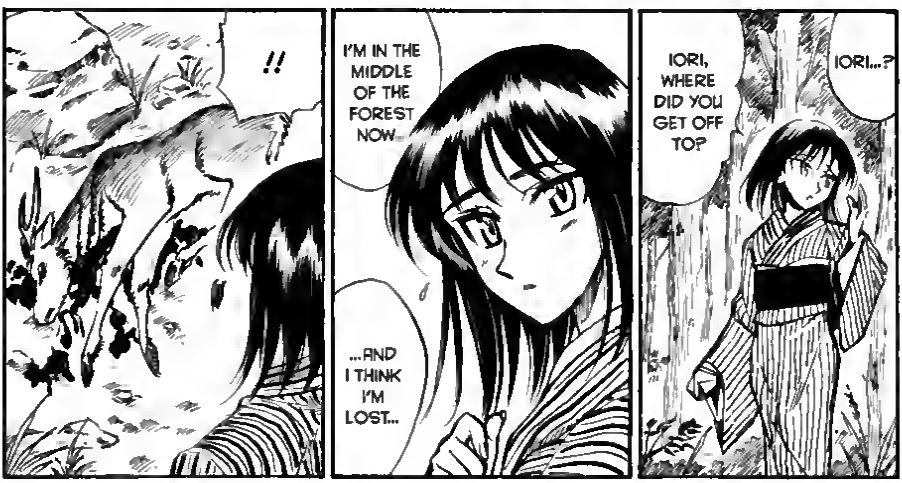
...THOSE WONDER-FUL DAYS.

I'M SURE IT WILL COME...


♭40 TAXI
ONCE UPON A TIME...
SHE'S GOR-GEOUS!
JUST LIKE A FLOWER!
...THERE LIVED A VERY BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL.
EVERYONE WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT SHE'D BE THE HAPPIEST PERSON ON EARTH.
SHE EVEN CAUGHT THE EYE OF THE MASTER OF THE CASTLE, LORD HANAI!
YES, SHE IS ONE LUCKY GIRL!
YAKUMO! IT'S FINALLY THE DAY OF YOUR WEDDING!!
.....
O—
OKAY...
YOUR HAPPINESS IS MINE, SO YOU'D BETTER TURN OUT TWICE AS HAPPY!!

...THERE ARE BEARS IN THIS AREA! IT'S DANGEROUS!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU...
MATAGI-SAN...
!
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?

ONE MONTH EARLIER...


!!
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST NOW...
...AND I THINK I'M LOST...
IORI, WHERE DID YOU GET OFF TO?
IORI...?

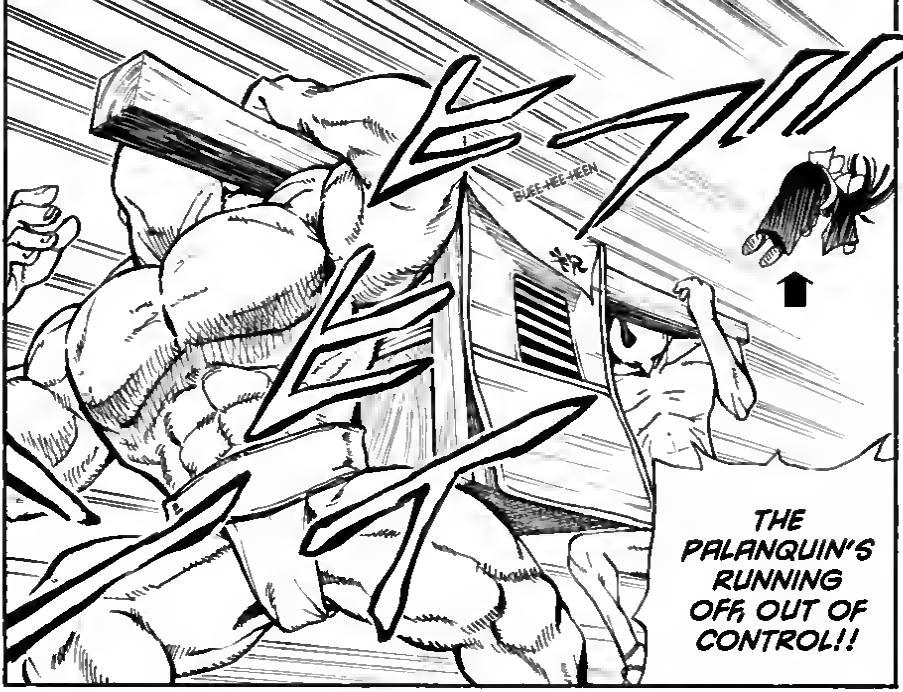
IT COULDN'T BE THAT..
...ONE HAS GOTTEN TO IORI...?!
THAT MEANS THERE MUST BE BEARS OUT HERE..
LOOK AT THOSE AWFUL CLAW MARK'S! THE POOR THING!
!!
GROOWLL
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
!!
TMP
3
GRITCH GRITCH
GYDOLLLL

GRRRR...
FSST
WHOOSH
IORI!!
TMP
GYRRR...
MMG
.....
?
DUMM

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?
DAMMIT!! IT LOOKS LIKE KUTAKABUTO MANAGED TO GET AWAY!!
AND THAT IS HOW THE TWO MET...
I HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY LIFE.
.....
UM...
I, UH...
I HEAR YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED.
.....
YES.
.....

WOW...
SHE'S SO PRETTY!
おおっ!!
YEAH!!
IT'S TIME FOR THE BRIDAL PARADE TO BEGIN!!
MATAGI-SAN...
...THEY'RE FIRING IN CELEBRA-TION.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
BLAMM
COMING FROM THE FOR-EST!
IT SOUNDS LIKE A SHOT-GUN...
BLAMM
BLAMM

ZWAFF
MATAGI-SAN...
NEE-SAN... I CAN'T BECOME HANAI-SAMA'S BRIDE! I MUSTN'T!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I...
...CAN'T GO ON WITH THIS!
BUT I... FOR ME...
WHO DO YOU THINK RAISED YOU, AFTER ALL?!
YOU HAVE TO GET MARRIED AND GIVE ME A LIFE OF EASE AND LEISURE!
YOU HAVE A DUTY TO GO GET MARRIED!
TH-THE PALAN-QUIN!!
L-LOOK AT THAT!!
CHATTER
EH...?
BUEE-HEHEEN!!
THERE IS SOME-ONE ELSE THAT I LOVE!!

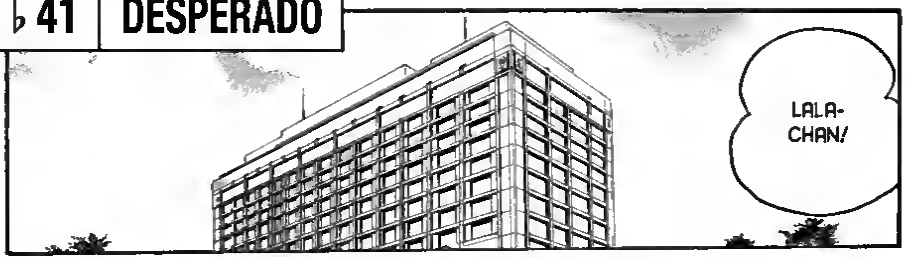

THE PALANQUIN'S RUNNING OFF, OUT OF CONTROL!!

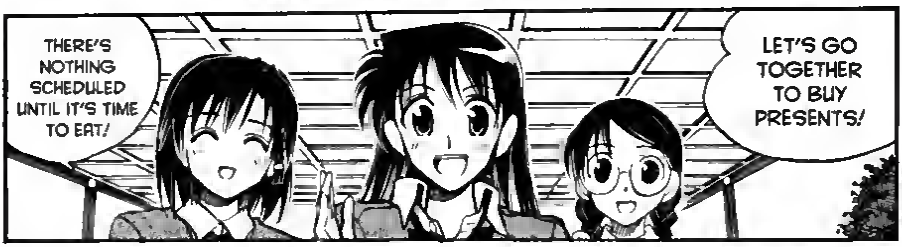
PALANQUIN-SAN?!
P-

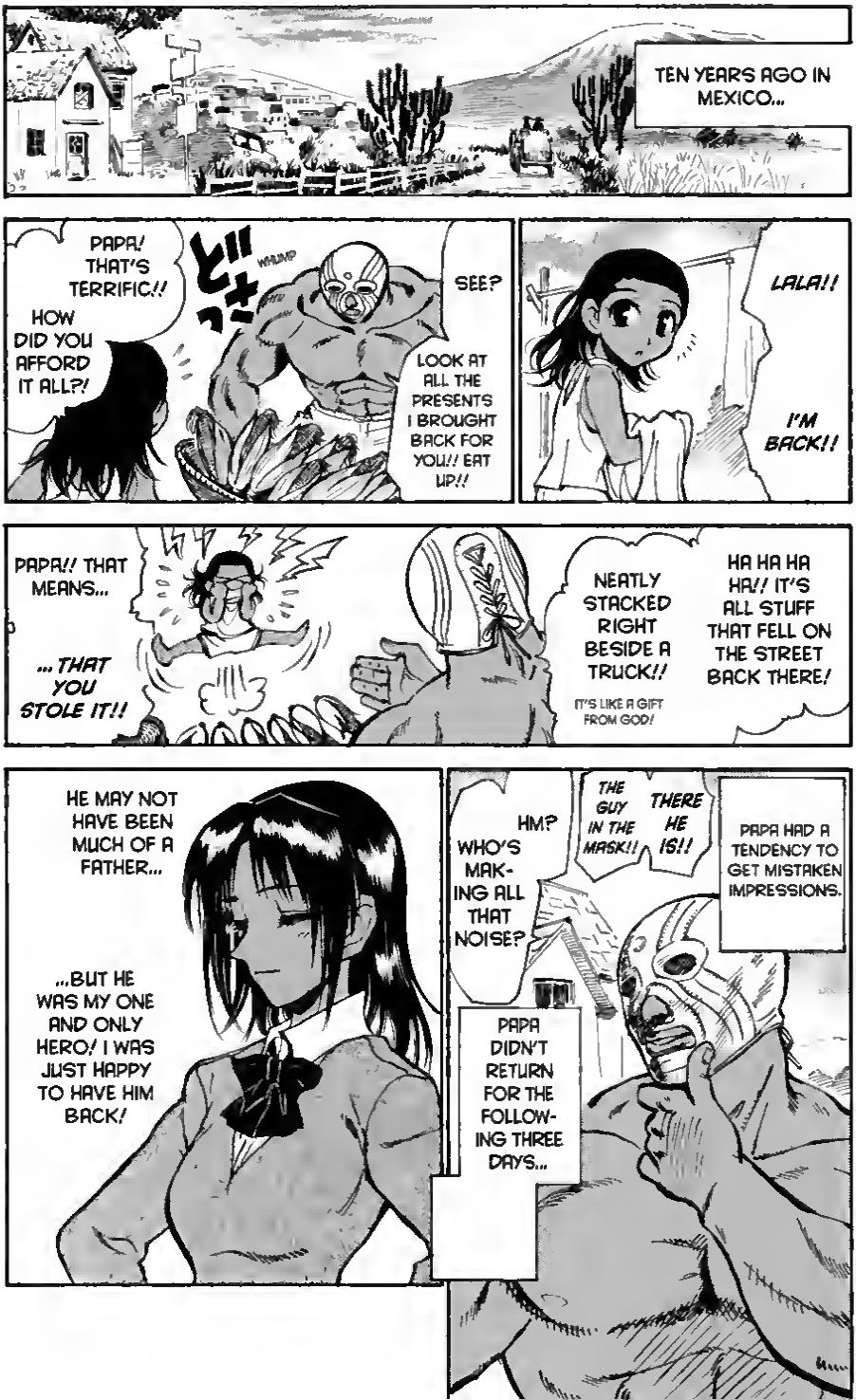
BUT IT HAD TO GET HER TO WHERE THE MATAGI WERE! WHERE HER TRUE LOVE AWAITED! EVEN AT THE COST OF ITS LIFE!
PIN-CUSHIONED WITH COUNTLESS ARROWS SHOT BY ITS PURSUERS.
AND THE PALAN-QUIN RAN AWAY!!

REALLY?
BUT AKIRA CHAN, WHAT'S WITH THE CASTING? I WOULD NEVER
EVERY-BODY IN KYOTO KNOWS THE STORY.
AND THAT IS THE LEGEND OF THE RUNAWAY PALANQUIN.

♭41 DESPERADO

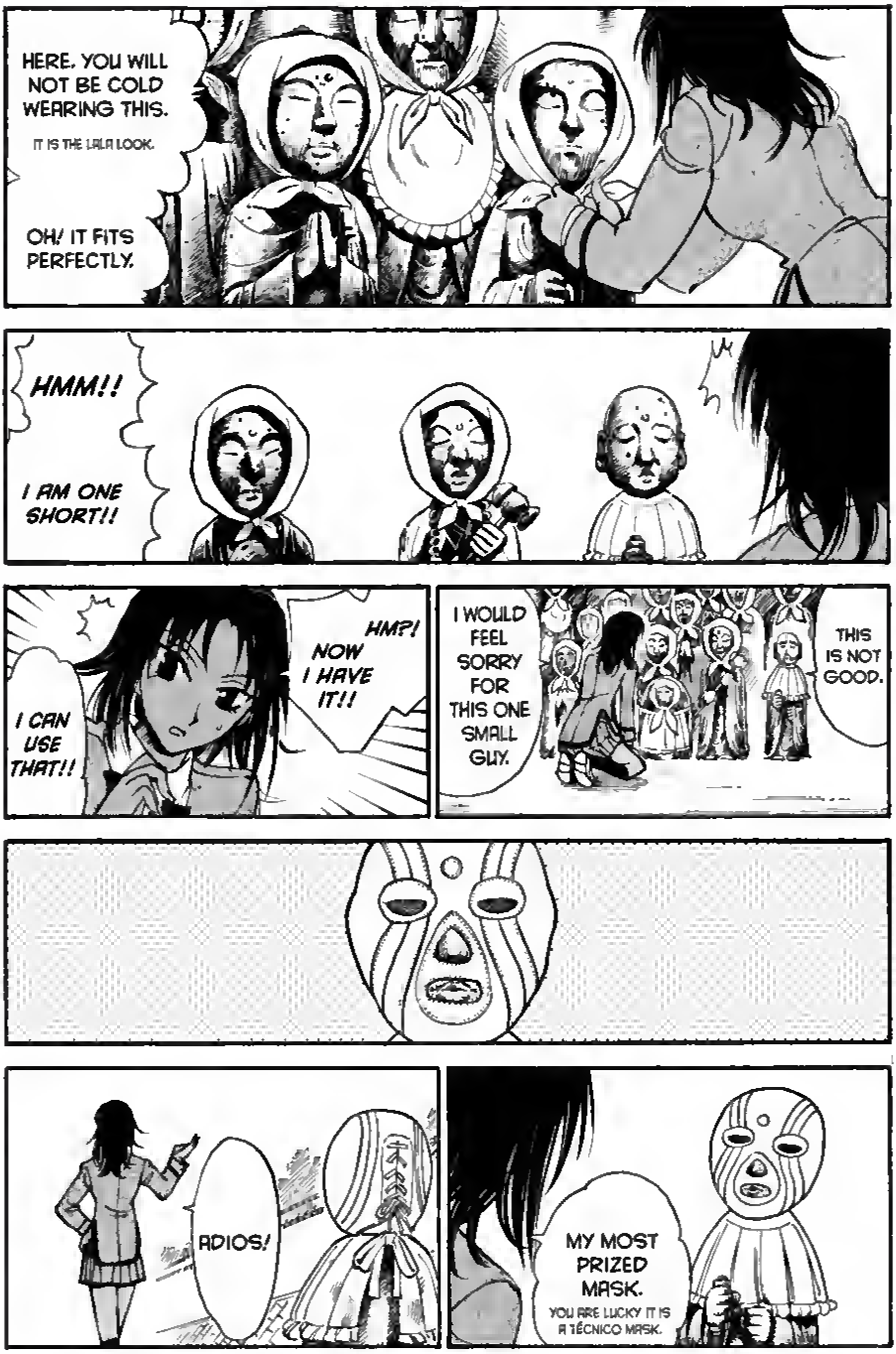




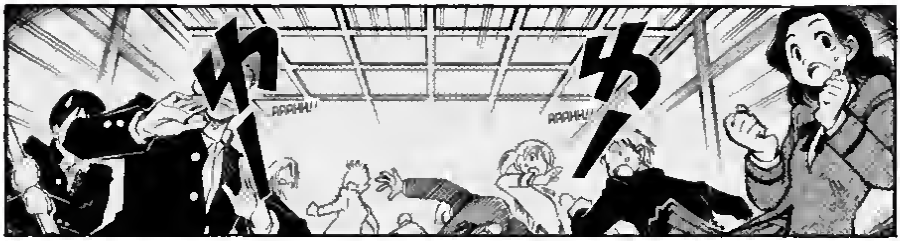

TEN YEARS AGO IN MEXICO...
LALA!!
I'M BACK!!
SEE?
LOOK AT ALL THE PRESENTS I BROUGHT BACK FOR YOU!! EAT UP!!
どさっ
WHUMP
PAPA! THAT'S TERRIFIC!!
HOW DID YOU AFFORD IT ALL?!
HA HA HA HA!! IT'S ALL STUFF THAT FELL ON THE STREET BACK THERE!
NEATLY STACKED RIGHT BESIDE A TRUCK!!
IT'S LIKE A GIFT FROM GOD!
PAPA!! THAT MEANS...
...THAT YOU STOLE IT!!
PAPA HAD A TENDENCY TO GET MISTAKEN IMPRESSIONS.
HM? WHO'S MAKING ALL THAT NOISE?
THE GUY IN THE MASK!!
THERE HE IS!!
PAPA DIDN'T RETURN FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE DAYS...
HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN MUCH OF A FATHER...
...BUT HE WAS MY ONE AND ONLY HERO! I WAS JUST HAPPY TO HAVE HIM BACK!

Lala Gonzales: A Foreign Exchange Student from Mexico. Just So You Know.

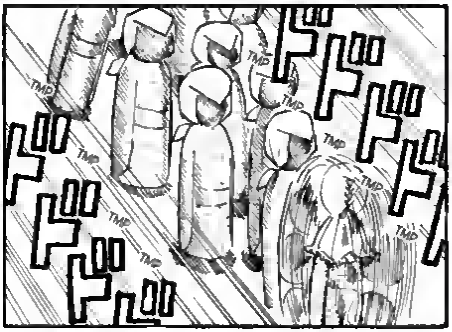
I SEEM TO HAVE WALKED A LONG WAY.
I DID NOT NOTICE THE TIME PASSING.
HM?
HMM...?
WHAT IS THIS?
THEY HAVE SHAVEN HEADS...
THEY LOOK COLD.
ARE THESE WHAT THEY CALL JIZÔ?
ICHI JÔ TOLD ME ABOUT THEM.

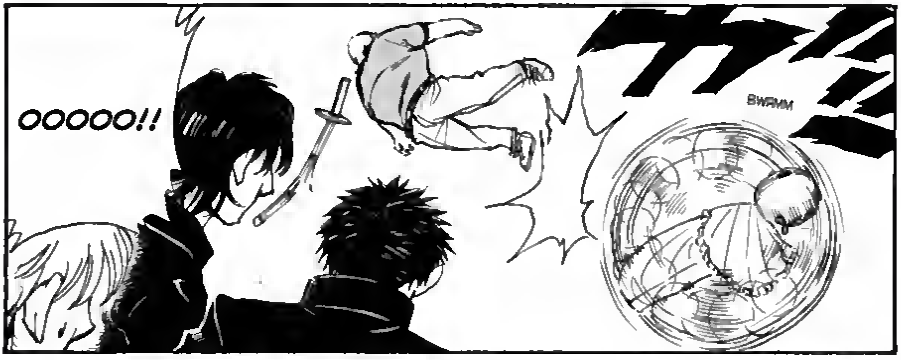

HERE. YOU WILL NOT BE COLD WEARING THIS.
IT IS THE LALA LOOK.
OH! IT FITS PERFECTLY.
HMM!!
I AM ONE SHORT!!
I CAN USE THAT!!
HMP! NOW I HAVE IT!!
I WOULD FEEL SORRY FOR THIS ONE SMALL GUY.
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
ADIOS!
MY MOST PRIZED MASK.
YOU ARE LUCKY IT IS A TÉCNICO MASK.

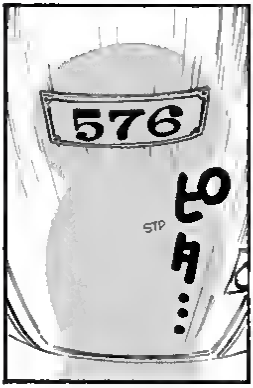
I SHOULD SLEEP.
I AM TIRED FROM ALL THE WALKING
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO DO.
ZZZ...
.....
SHM SHM SHM SHM SHM SHM
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
WHA–
WHAT IS GOING ON?!
UNN...
UUUNNN...
BRRM!! BRRM!!
GRCHNK
GYRRR!!


RRRHH!!
RRRHH!!

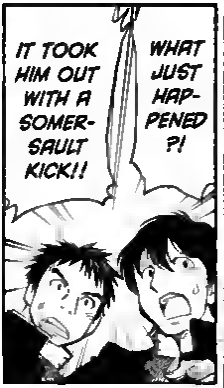
HEY!! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO KEEP IT QUIET—

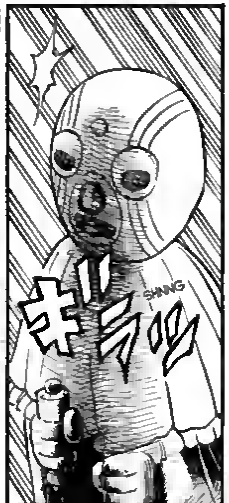

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP


OOOOO!!
BWAMM


576
STP
ヒョ…

DM DM DM DM
DM DM DM DM


IT TOOK HIM OUT WITH A SOMER-SAULT KICK!!
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED ?!


SHING

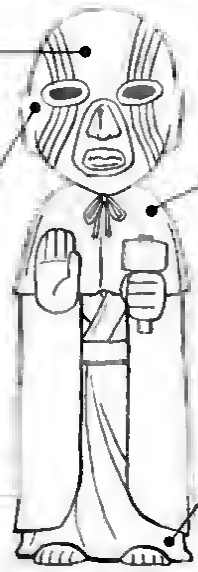
Look at This, a Jizô-san-style Tope.

♭41 · · · · · · · · · Fin

[TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 16]

SCHOOL RUMBLE★UMA FILE

File006 Jizô



JIZÔ HEAD
HEAD AS HARD AS ROCK, AND A WILL AS STRONG AS STONE.

JIZÔ EYE
WHEN TIRED, ITS EYES FEEL AS IF THEY WERE WEIGHTED DOWN WITH ROCKS BUT IT HAS A STONE-COLD STARE.

JIZÔ SHOULDER
ALTHOUGH IT DOES NG OFFICE WORK, IT IS PRONE TO STIFFNESS EVER SINCE JIZÔ'S EARLIEST MEMORIES THE MUSCLES ARE HARD AS ROCKS.

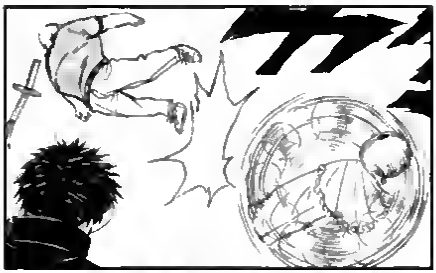
JIZÔ FOOT
ONLY EVER GETS EXERCISE ON THE NIGHTS IT FULFILLS ITS MISSIONS BUT WHEN IT DOES, IT IS UNEXPECTEDLY NIMBLE. ITS ABILITIES TO RUSH AND JUMP ARE UNIQUE ON HEAVEN OR EARTH.

CHARACTERISTICS

(LUCHA-MASK WEARING TYPE)
• PLACE OF BIRTH ROCK QUARRY • FAVORITE FOOD: TACOS • FAVORITE SAYING: FIGHT FREE • THEME SONG: SKY HIGH
• ULTIMATE ATTACKS: KABAAJO (CAMEL CLUTCH), SAULT MORUTARU (SOMERSAULT)

○EXPLANATION

IT USUALLY STAYS MOTIONLESS ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, BUT IT IS MEANT TO PROTECT TRAVELERS AND CHILDREN
"ALL LIFE IS DIVIDED INTO SIX TYPES OF WORLDS, AND LIVING BEINGS ARE REBORN FROM ONE INTO THE NEXT."
THIS IS A PART OF THE SIX ROADS OF REINCARNATION CONCEPT, AND FOR THIS REASON JIZÔ ARE OFTEN FOUND TOGETHER, SIX IN A LINE COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS A MANGA THAT FEATURED SEXTUPLETS, BUT IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE MANGA HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SIX ROADS OF REINCARNATION FURTHERMORE, THIS MANGA INCLUDED FAR MORE THAN SIX JIZÔ, BUT ONE SHOULDN'T THINK OF THAT AS A MISTAKE OF THE ARTIST MOST LIKELY, ANYWAY
RECENTLY, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT JIZÔ BECOME "UNDERGROUND COMMANDOS" WHO GO OUT ON MISSIONS AT NIGHT THE MODUS OPERANDI IS SUCH THAT ALL BUT ONE OF THE JIZÔ WEAR THE SAME THING ON THEIR HEADS, AND THAT ONE WEARS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ON ITS HEAD THAT WAY, THE DIFFERENT PIECE OF HEADWEAR CONVEYS ITS UNIQUE ABILITIES TO THE OTHER JIZÔ, AND THAT JIZÔ, LEADS ITS ARMY OF JIZÔ ON THEIR NIGHTTIME MISSION



▲ THE JIZÔ APPEARED BEFORE THE YAGAMI HIGH STUDENTS WHILE ON THEIR SCHOOL TRIP

IN THE MYTHICAL TALE, "CAS-A-JIZÔ," A MAN NAMED O G SUN DISCOVERS THIS METHOD, USES IT, AND GOES ON TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER
ASIDE FROM THE LUCHA JIZÔ THAT APPEARED IN THIS VOLUME, THERE ALSO HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF A HORSE-HEAD JIZÔ, A FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER JIZÔ, AND A FOOLISH FEUDAL LORD JIZÔ, AMONG OTHERS

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Master of the mountain, page 13

Generally refers to a large animal that is the spiritual protector of a certain location. There is much more regarding this subject in the manga *Mushishi*, also available from Del Rey.

Aku Soku Zan!!, page 20

This quote is attributed to being a "rule" of the Shinsengumi, a group of masterless samurai dedicated to upholding the samurai tradition in Kyoto during the latter half of the 1800s. While the thought behind the quote is true to the spirit of the Shinsengumi, the rule itself can't be confirmed as historically accurate. The phrase is best known as the catch phrase of Hajime Saitou in the popular manga *Rurouni Kenshin*.

Shiki Soku Ze Kû!!, page 21

This is a quote from the Buddhist Heart Sutra. It is similar in form to the above *Aku Soku Zan*, but almost completely the opposite in meaning and intention. The Heart Sutra is an early work in Buddhism (although probably written more than a century after the Buddha died), and it is one of the foundations for Zen Buddhism. Like most sutras, it is chanted with nearly each syllable given equal inflection, so it would sound much like the *Aku Soku Zan* from the previous page despite the disparity in meaning. The *soku* is the same kanji in both.

Obugyô-sama, page 34

There are many different kinds of villains in Japanese period dramas, including street thugs, local yakuza, and unscrupulous, greedy merchants. But the well-bribed power behind the evildoers is usually the middle management of feudal samurai Japan, the Obugyô-sama, the Go-Karô-sama, and the Daikan-sama. They are typically appointed by the local lord (the Tono-sama) to oversee particular regions or run the bureaucracy, and they usually have a small army of samurai soldiers at their beck and call to oppress the farmers, artisans, honest businessmen, impoverished widows and children of noble samurai, pretty maidens, etc. They are usually the ones to receive the greatest punishment for their corruption at the end of the hour-long drama.

Top of one's head, page 35

This was a difficult pun to translate. In the original Japanese, Samuel asks if the Japanese have forgotten how to laugh at *kamigata* comedy—another word for comedy from the region of Kansai (Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto, and surrounds). But *kami* can also mean "hair." Put it together with *kata*, which can mean "shape," and you can take the meaning as "haircut." Rather than explain the pun on the manga pages, this translation tried to find a different phrase by which Tenma could laugh at the teacher's haircut.

Just punishment, page 39

The Japanese term *seibai*, which means "just punishment," is used at the climactic moments of fight scenes in many period dramas, but it is most correlated with the drama *Aborenbô Shogun* (*Shogun on a Rampage*), in which the Shogun goes out onto the streets of Edo disguised as a ronin samurai, uncovering the plots of ruthless petty officials to oppress the same type of good people as listed in the previous note about Obugyô-sama. In the final scenes he reveals himself as the Shogun, but the corrupt official attacks him anyway in a desperate attempt to escape justice. Then the Shogun, assisted by his two trusty ninja-style servants, incapacitate all of the official's men-at-arms, and in the final moment the Shogun shouts, "*Seibai*," as the evil official is cut down for his treachery.

Togetsu-kyô Bridge and Kameyama Jôkô, page 44

Found in the western Kyoto district of Arashiyama, this bridge was first built more than 800 years ago and rebuilt over the centuries. It is the main attraction of the area. The kanji for its name are made up of *to*, which means to cross, and *getsu*, which means "the moon." Thus it means "the moon-crossing bridge." Kameyama Jôkô, a retired emperor, went personally to the Ise Shrine to plead with Goddess Amaterasu. That action is said to have instigated the *Kamikaze* ("The Divine Wind") that drowned Kublai Khan's hoards of invaders in the Sea of Japan before they hit Japanese shores. As Tanaka indicated, legend has it that Kameyama Jôkô named the bridge.

The finger, page 44

The finger is used as a rude gesture in Japan, but it doesn't have quite the strength to offend over there as is does in the West. It's really more a symbol of defiance than anything else.

Konnyaku, page 46

Konnyaku is a jelly-like food that is made from the *konnyaku* potato. It can be served as dumplings (such as Tenma is eating) or as ingredients in stews and other dishes.

Ôkawachi Sansô, page 48

Also known as Ôkouchi Sansô, it used to be the home of a famous actor in samurai films during the silent movie period. His home is now a tourist spot popular for its scenic views, sculptured landscape, and free tea and cakes with the price of admission.

Ryû Shutsuko and Ryû Seiya, page 63

In Japanese, *ryûshutsuko* means "preventing a blockage of the flow of water or data." And *ryûsei* means "comet." So Ryû Nenji's siblings also take after their names.

I Doubt It, page 73

The girls are playing the popular Western children's card game "I Doubt It," which is also known by other names not printable in a family publication.

Share a kanji, page 73

The *masa* part of Tôgô Masakazu's name is the same character as *miyabi* ("refinement") in Kyoto's nickname *Miyabi no Miyako*, which means the "Capital of Refinement."

Burn down some mountains, page 73

Usually held in mid-August, the Daimonji Gozan Okuribi is a festival in which fires are lit on five hills (*gozan*) around Kyoto. On each mountain a different shape is set ablaze. They include the shape of the kanji character *dai* ("large"), another character *myô* ("miraculous"), a third character *hô* ("doctrine"), the shape of a ship (*funagata*), and finally, the *torii* symbol of the shrine. It is conducted as a part of Kyoto's Obon celebrations.

MinamotoYoshitsune and the Tengu, page 74

Yoshitsune (1159–1189) is a legendary general from the time of the rise of the Minamoto Shogunate. When he was very young, his father was executed by the enemies of the Minamotos, the Taira clan, but Yoshitsune and his older brother Yoritomo were spared and sent to different locations in Japan. Yoshitsune was sent to Kuramayama north of Kyoto, where, as legend has it, he escaped into the woods and was trained in swordsmanship by the supernatural beings, the Tengu.

Packy and the drama, page 74

NHK's renowned Taiga Drama (a year-long period drama that has a new historical subject every year) portrayed life and legends surrounding Yoshitsune in its 2005 edition. It starred the handsome young idol Takezawa Hideaki, who is better known to his fans as Tacky, and won outstanding ratings for that year. Tacky's counterpart in the *School Rumble* universe is called Packy.

Nara, page 76

The capital prior to Kyoto was the ancient city of Nara. Burial mounds thought to be for ancient kings dating back to the third and fourth centuries AD are found in the area, leading to the belief that it was Japan's capital at that time. Its tenure as Japan's capital lasted until 794, when the capital was moved to Kyoto. Nowadays it is a major tourist destination and houses many major museums, shrines, parks, and temples, including a huge wooden statue of the Buddha (the Daibutsu).

Japanese-style house, page 86

Most homes built in Japan today are Western-style homes slightly modified for Japanese use. But older Japanese homes were typically floored with tatami mats and used traditional sliding doors. The popularity of Western-style homes these days means that there are many Japanese young people who have never entered a functioning traditional home.

Female white face, page 100

As in Western ideals of several hundred years ago, the untanned white face denoted female beauty in Japanese society. Medieval Japanese women went so far as to paint their faces a stark white, using makeup to try to achieve that beauty. No one goes to such extremes now,but the aesthetic that whiter faces are more beautiful still lingers.

Karaoke boxes, page 116

Most westerners have heard of karaoke by now, but the karaoke box is still rather foreign in Western nations. Karaoke boxes are small rooms that can seat different sizes of parties. Typically bench seats are arranged on three walls and along the fourth is a small stage for singing and the audio/video equipment. Most karaoke boxes feature ways to order refreshments. The walls tend to be heavily soundproofed.

Ayu, page 117

Probably refers to the pop diva Ayumi Hamasaki.

All alone, page 118

Although attitudes are changing, an unchaperoned high school couple in a private space like a karaoke box would still be thought of as a little scandalous.

Tôdai and the Red Gate, page 129

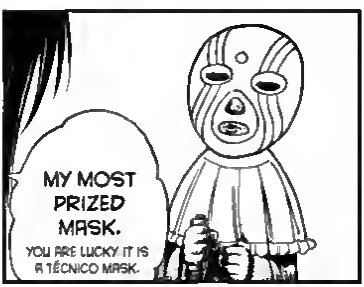
The unquestioned "best" university in Japan is the state-sponsored school, Tokyo Daigaku (Tokyo University or Tôdai for short). Admission is achieved by passing the entrance exams, which have a reputation of being the toughest in the country. Half of all of the nation's prime ministers are graduates of Tôdai, and graduation from the school is almost a guarantee of a good, prestigious job. The Red Gate (Akamon) was built nearly 200 years ago to welcome the daughter of a Shogun to the household of a wealthy samurai family, and it still stands as a symbol of the university now built on that same spot.

W-dai, page 130

While Tôdai is the top public school, the two top private universities in Japan are considered to be Keiô University and Waseda University (both found in different sections of Tokyo). These private universities have nearly the same reputation for excellence and tough entrance exams as Tôdai, and their graduates share much the same happy fate of assured success. W-dai would refer to Waseda University.

Matagi, page 144

Matagi is the general name for clans of hunters who lived in or roamed the Japanese mountains, mainly in the northern part of Japan's main island of Honshû. Although they hunted all kinds of animals, they are most famous for hunting the Japanese black bears.



Técnico, page 154

In Mexican lucha libre, *técnicos* are the wrestlers who master the techniques and win through skill. Generally they are the good guys. *Rudos* are the ones who try to win through tricks and foul play; they're usually the bad guys.

Tope, page 157

In Mexican lucha libre, a *tope* technique is a head-first flying attack.

German suplex, page 158

The German suplex is a pro-wrestling move found all over the world. It is accomplished by one wrestler grabbing another from behind and flipping onto his back, bringing his opponent with him.